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Holiday 2009

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Christmas ideas
from treetop to tabletop

29 FESTIVE ROOMS TO SPARK YOUR HOLIDAY DECORATING

12 WAYS TO PLAN A SMART KITCHEN THAT'S GREEN ALL YEAR LONG

10 SIMPLE TIPS TO MAKE FAMILY GET-TOGETHERS SPECIAL

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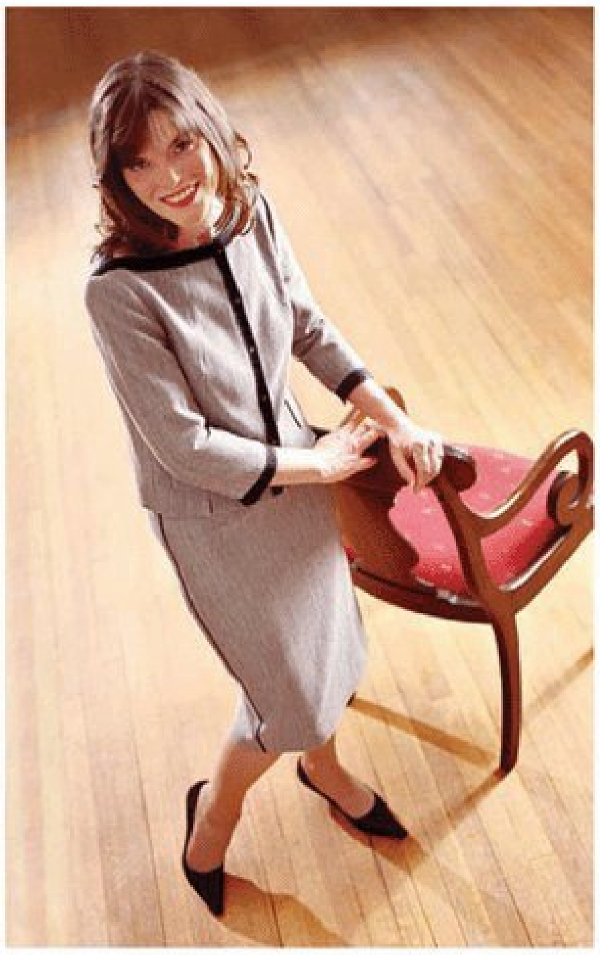
I don't know about your Christmas wish list,

but I sincerely hope that, like me, you already have everything you really need—a home, a job, and most of all, a family. In keeping with the national mood of spending time instead of splurging to make the holidays meaningful, what I really *want* this Christmas is another two weeks to prepare for it. I'd love to make at least one of the 14 kinds of Christmas cookies that my mother used to bake, or discover a new card game that my family will stay up too late playing. Having reached a practical point where I'd rather simplify than acquire, this season I find I'd prefer to share a meal or a memory than exchange elaborate gifts. (Little ones are just fine.) Anyway, my biggest extravagance this holiday will be spending time—time wrapped up by the fire with a cup of spiced tea; time watching snow fall down in big fat storybook flakes; time remembering the many Christmases we've spent in this wonderful old house, and the many dear ones who have helped make my memories so special.

As we put this holiday issue together, I loved finding out about the rituals of the homeowners we're featuring. For the Rinfret family of rural Connecticut, Christmas means snuggling under blankets on their back porch, the "outdoor living room" of their new home ("Sing Noël," page 53). There they tell stories into the night in front of a crackling fire while their trio of golden retrievers—jolly in their red bandannas—cuddles in to keep them warm. For designer Anthony Catalfano of Brookline, Massachusetts ("Festive Forever," page 72), a tradition is plunking out carols for guests' enjoyment in his 1902 Georgian Colonial, a home he chose in part for the way it parties—and he has decorated in palettes that seem to celebrate year-round. In North Carolina, avid gardeners Sam and Glenda Greeson make up for the lack of snow by decking their halls with fresh flowers and winter berries ("All Is Calm, All Is Light," page 78). We're intrigued by the way architect Sam created a new, four-story home with all the amenities in a classic Charleston Single House vernacular.



And, of course, Christmas isn't Christmas without children. In "On the Table" (page 38), please join in at an exuberant brunch held annually by two young California families. Maybe you'll discover some new rituals of your own.

It's been written that all roads lead home at Christmas, a bridge under which the river of time flows. My holiday wish is that you take time to linger on that bridge—remembering Christmas past, savoring Christmas present, and hoping for a peaceful, joyous Christmas future.

Ann Omvig Maine
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PORTRAIT: COLLEEN DUFFLEY

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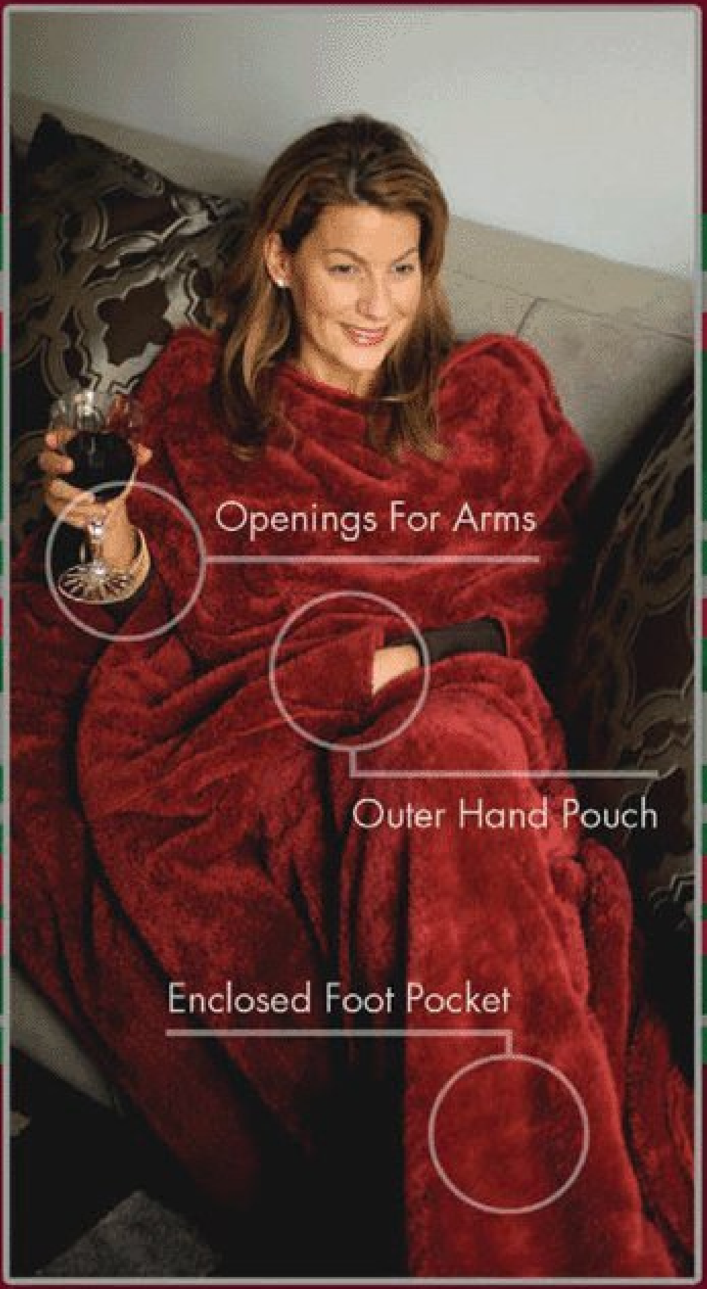

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A combination of happy palettes keeps designer Anthony Catalfano's Georgian Colonial in Massachusetts ready for good times all year—and it's especially welcoming at the holidays.

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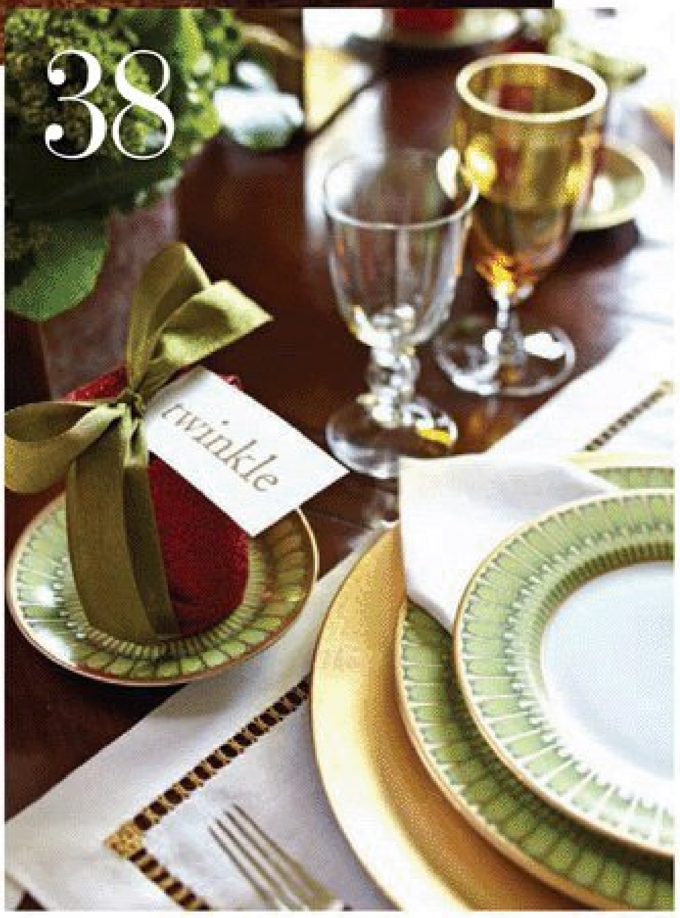

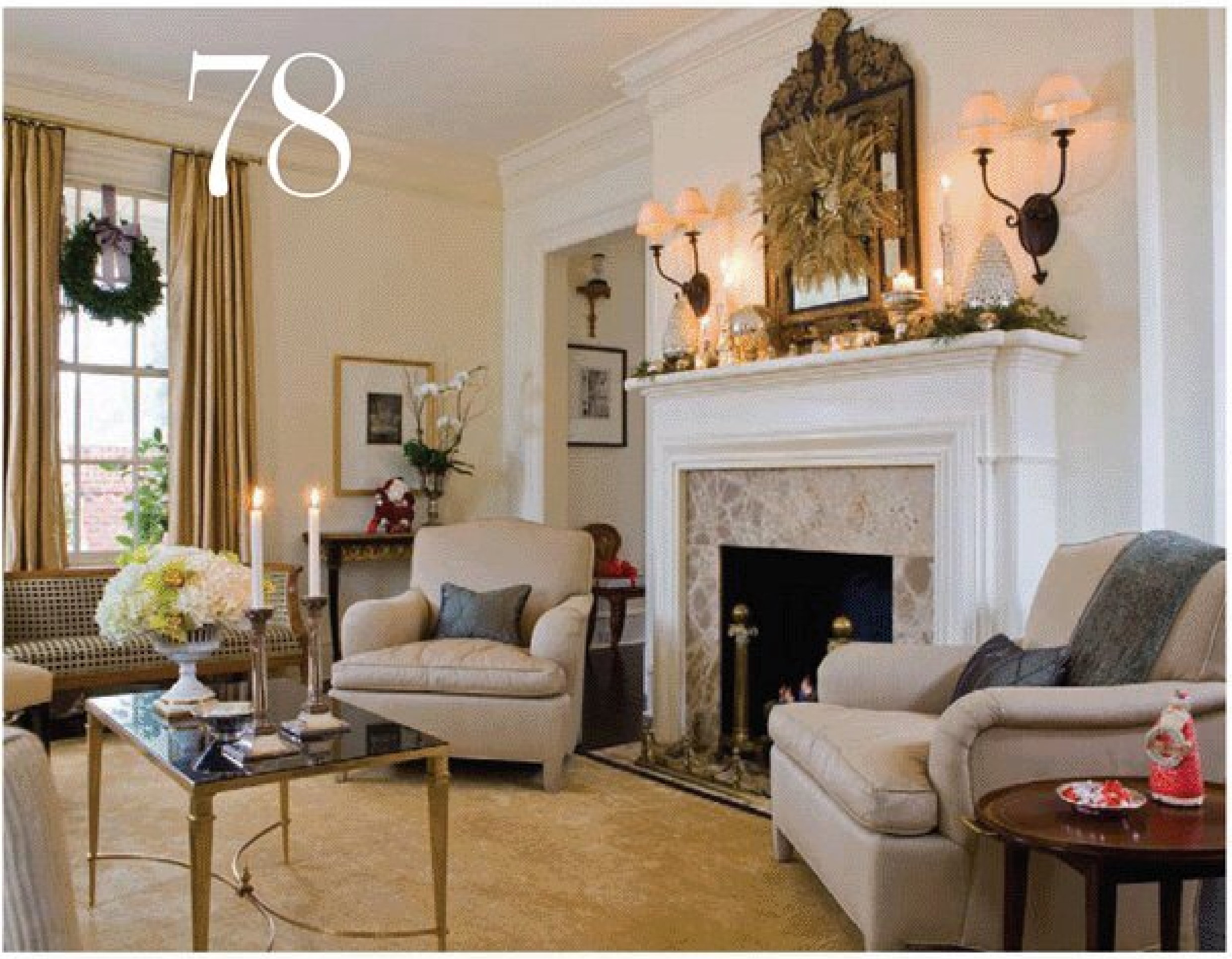

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haute holiday

WE ASKED.
THEY ANSWERED.
SEE HOW DESIGNERS DO CHRISTMAS

A holiday open house concludes a parade of seasonal tasks that includes hanging lights, wrapping gifts, and tending to temperature-sensitive peanut brittle. This summons to mix and mingle led 23 of our favorite designers to invite us into their homes and their Christmas rituals. (Actually, we invited ourselves.) We asked them everything from how they decorate and entertain to what they give and what they leave for Santa and his reindeer. That last part was ➤

Fresh square wreath, $107; The Magnolia Company (themagnoliacompany.com). Glitter ribbon from May Arts (mayarts.com), trade.

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What do you give to a hostess at a holiday party?

Wendy Bellisimo displays her holiday cards on wide, shiny ribbon. She punches a small hole in each card, then ties the card to the ribbon with raffia.

Cards, top to bottom: "Dot Peace," $4, and "Season's Greetings," $5; Egg Press (eggpress.com). Wood card, $24 for 6; Night Owl Paper Goods (nightowlpapergoods.com) "Menorah" card, $12 for 10; Smudge Ink (smudgeink.com). Ribbon: Midori (midoriribbon.com).

"Lewis" 5x7 frame, $38; Torre & Tagus (800/423-4417). "Hummock Pond" thank-you cards, $12 for 10; Wooster & Prince (parksidepapers.com). "Japanese Lantern" ornament, $35; Eric Cortina Collection (ericcortina.com).

> I wanted the Barbie Dream House, but my sister got it instead. I got a bald baby doll that year. —ALEXA HAMPTON

Perfect as a hostess gift or tied onto the top of a box with a festive ribbon, ornaments are sure to find a home on a branch in need of pizzazz.

Striped ornament, $18 for four; Christopher Radko (christopherradko.com). "Noël" Linen napkin, $26; Libeco (libecohomestores.com).

unanimous—milk and cookies, carrots, *and* a glass of wine for Mrs. Claus (a nicety that hails from Celerie Kemble and her family).

The tree-trimming process was also undisputed. Surprisingly, this robust pool of creative types chose ornamentation that veered to the sentimental over the stylish. "The most magical trees don't have a theme," explains Barry Dixon. "The sundry conglomerations—the serendipitous kismet of individual ornaments with myriad histories—are the romantic soul of a Christmas tree."

Visit these designers in their homes, and something different will greet you on each front door. Nathan Turner's wreath is no-fuss, in plain evergreen, ➤

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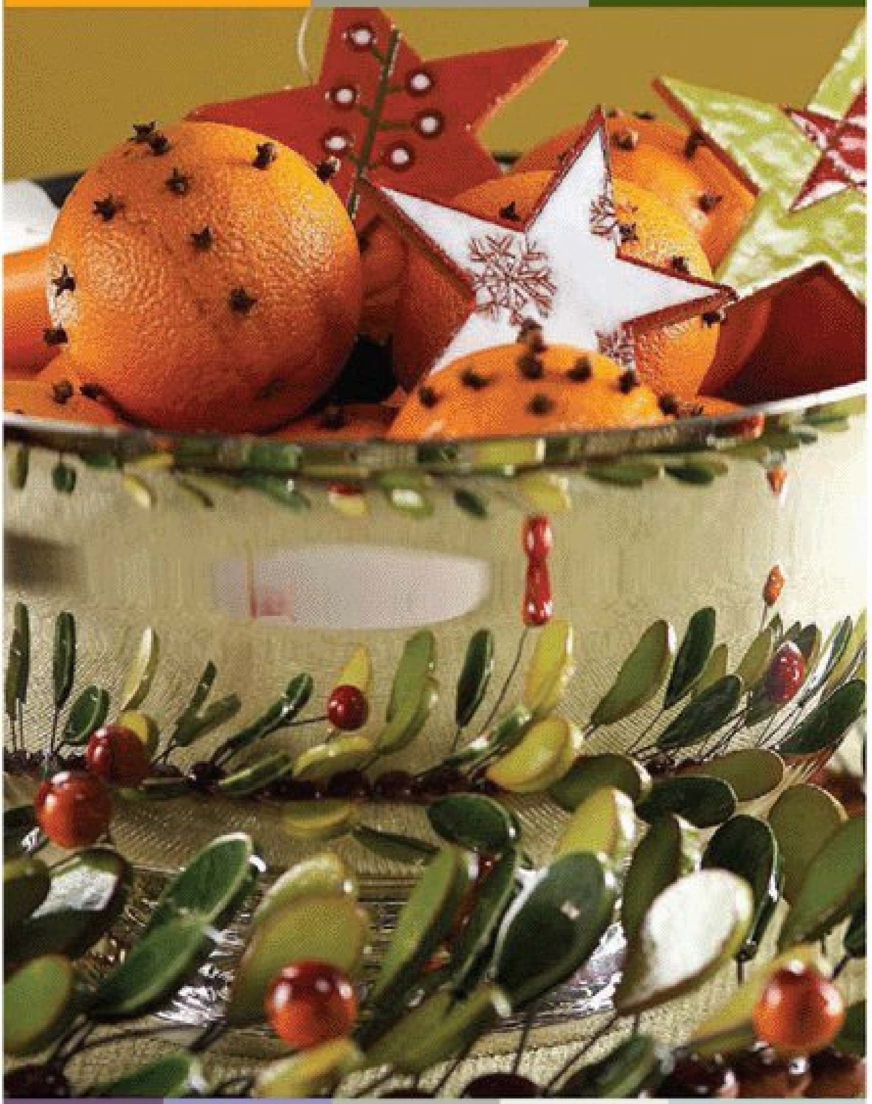
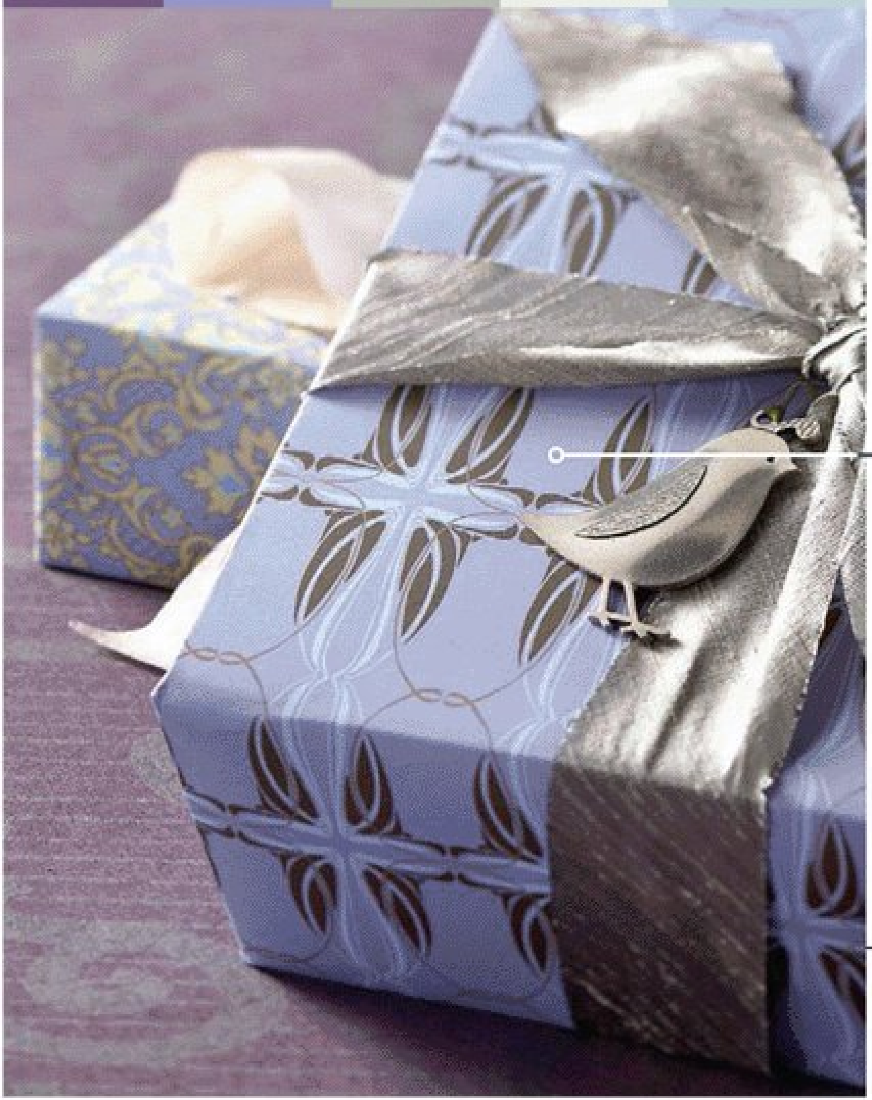
What is your favorite holiday palette?

Inspired by the orange groves that are a part of the Southern California vernacular, Los Angeles-based **Kevin Corn** prefers a citrus palette of orange, green, and silver.

Silverplate "Paul Revere" bowl, $95; Lunt (luntsilver.com). Painted terra-cotta ornaments, $18, and wreath, $325; both from Art Department (artdep.com).





Sophisticated tones of purple and lavender mixed with silver infuse **Kendall Wilkinson's** seasonal decor. For gifts, she gives her signature microfiber cotton towels in the same cool hues.

Silk ribbon; Midori. Gift wrap, $5 for two sheets; Wooster & Prince. "Beauchamp" wall covering (background); Ronald Redding Designs (800/220-6730). Pewter ornament, $18; Beehive Kitchenware (beehivekitchenware.com).

Christmas is conducive to mixing naturals, and **Celerie Kemble** is inspired by the rustic textures of pinecones and wood. She also chooses green and gold for her color schemes.

Feather trees, birch-veneer trees, and birch-bark trees; through Roost (info at roostco.com). Chipwood trees, $86 for three; Cody Foster and Co. (800/595-5907), trade. "Sudbury Yellow" paint; Farrow and Ball (farrowandball.com).

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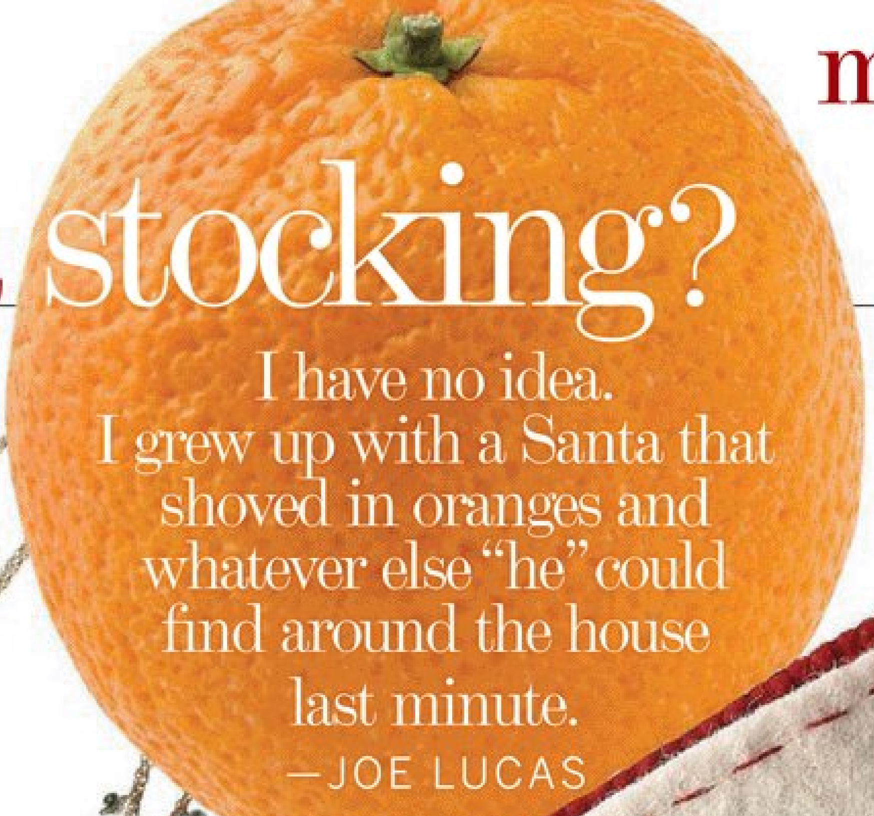
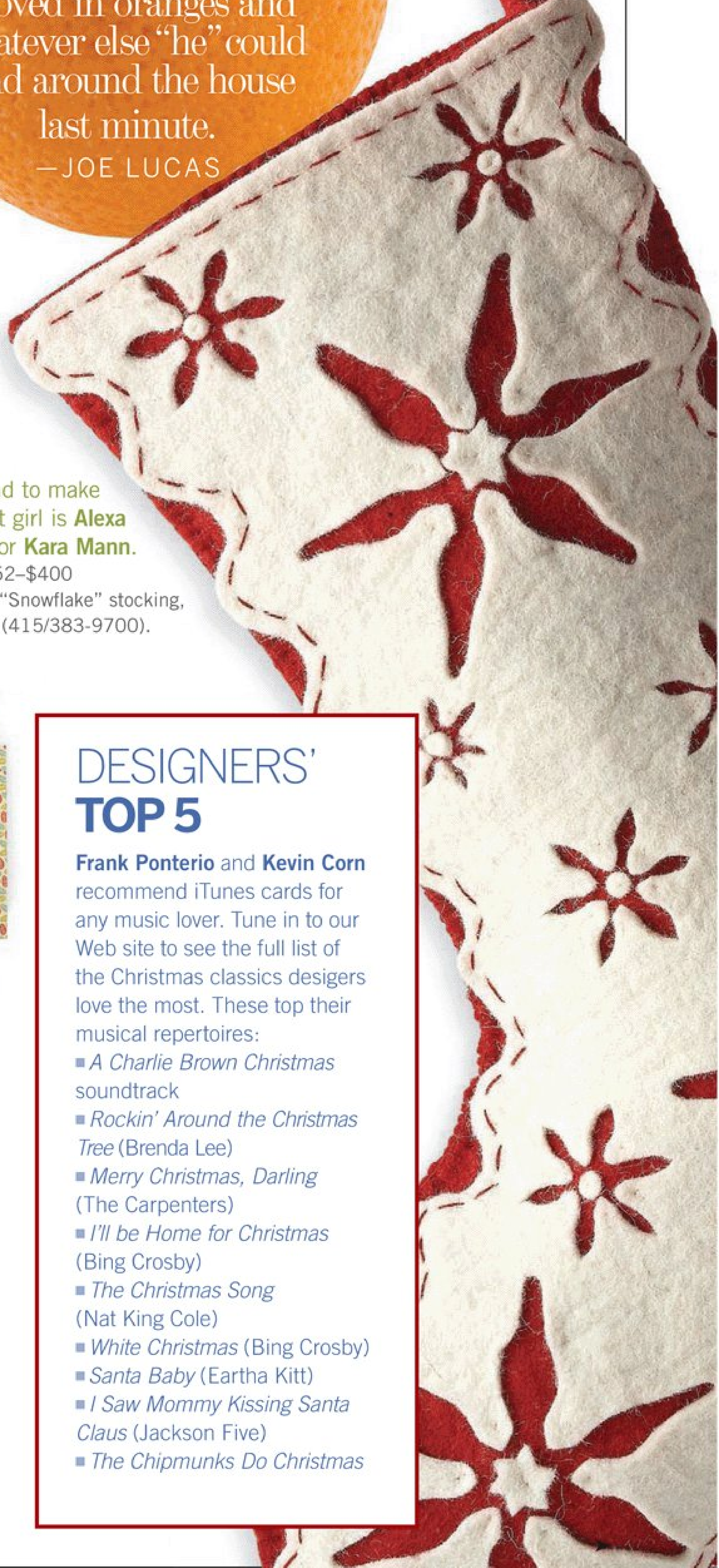
How do you stuff a stocking?



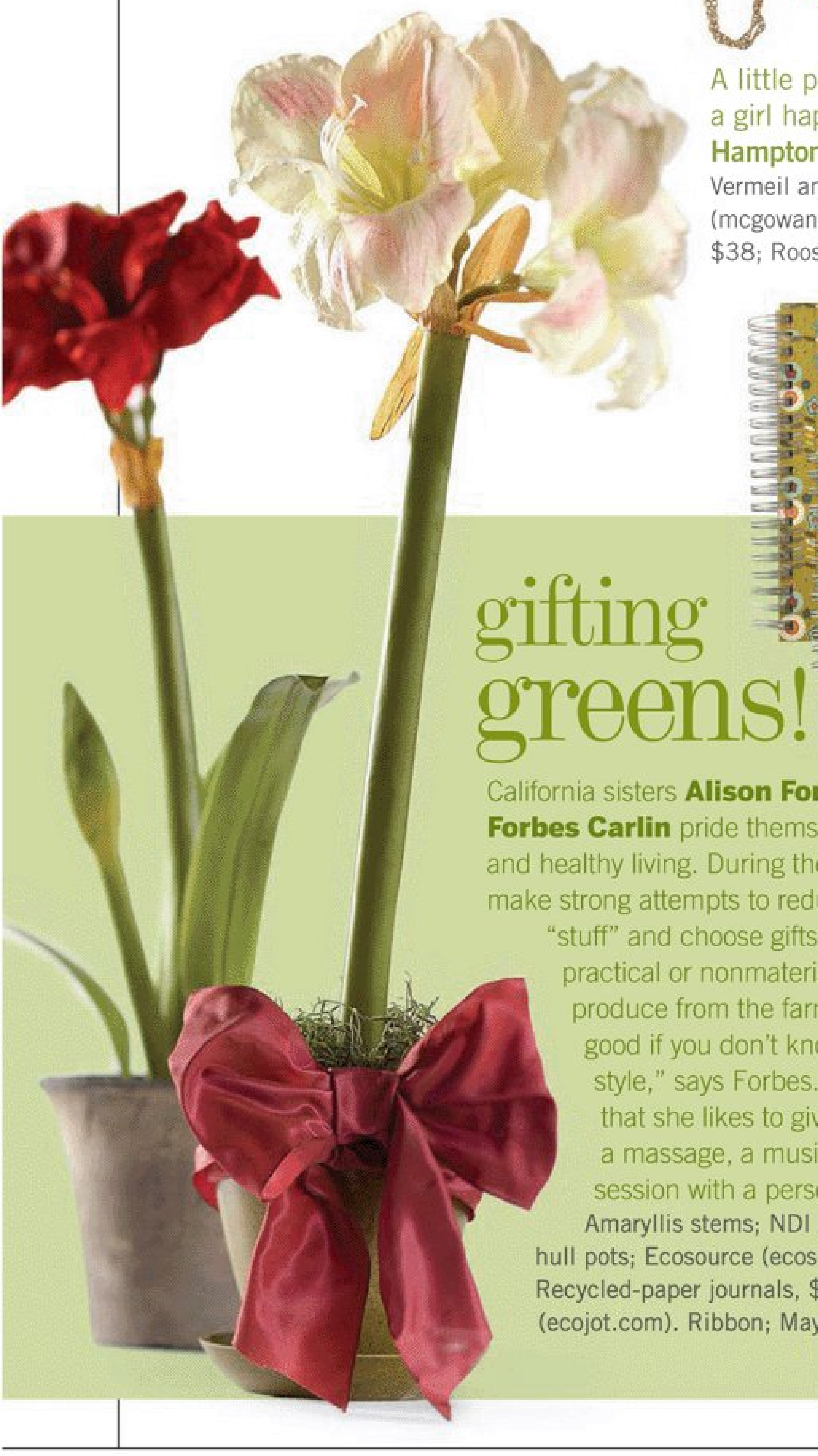
sans bows or ornaments. Joe Lucas expands the same concept just slightly, adding pinecones and fragrant juniper berries. And it's all fluff for Laura Day, whose wreath is effervescent with a fashion-forward combination of feathers in chartreuse, gray, and plum.

Christmas cards are all about the kids for our designer moms and dads, who format their greetings with recent images of their young ones. New dad Kenneth Brown used to show his dogs Oliver and Benson, but will now shift to an image of his daughter, Harper. Once the cards from friends and family are collected, displays vary. Attractive bowls to corral cards are a simple solution for Kara ➤

I have no idea. I grew up with a Santa that shoved in oranges and whatever else "he" could find around the house last minute.
—JOE LUCAS



A little piece of bling is bound to make a girl happy, especially if that girl is **Alexa Hampton**, **Annsley McAleer**, or **Kara Mann**. Vermeil and Geode necklace, $152–$400 (mcgowanandmcclain.com); Felt "Snowflake" stocking, $38; Roost through Maison Rêve (415/383-9700).



gifting greens!

California sisters **Alison Forbes** and **Laura Forbes Carlin** pride themselves on green and healthy living. During the holidays, they make strong attempts to reduce unneeded "stuff" and choose gifts that are practical or nonmaterial. "A basket of produce from the farmer's market is good if you don't know someone's style," says Forbes. Carlin adds that she likes to give such gifts as a massage, a music lesson, or a session with a personal trainer.

Amaryllis stems; NDI (ndi.com). Rice hull pots; Ecosource (ecosourceonline.com). Recycled-paper journals, $9–$15; Ecojot (ecojot.com). Ribbon; May Arts.

DESIGNERS' TOP 5

Frank Ponterio and **Kevin Corn** recommend iTunes cards for any music lover. Tune in to our Web site to see the full list of the Christmas classics desigers love the most. These top their musical repertoires:

- *A Charlie Brown Christmas* soundtrack
- *Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree* (Brenda Lee)
- *Merry Christmas, Darling* (The Carpenters)
- *I'll be Home for Christmas* (Bing Crosby)
- *The Christmas Song* (Nat King Cole)
- *White Christmas* (Bing Crosby)
- *Santa Baby* (Eartha Kitt)
- *I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus* (Jackson Five)
- *The Chipmunks Do Christmas*

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What do you give someone who has everything?

Grant Gibson infuses olive oils with herbs, makes candied orange peel and toffee, and loves to discover intriguing epicurean goodies.

Natural salt blocks, $24–$60; Himala Salt (himalasalt.com). Pomegranate Balsamic vinegar, $11; Olivier Napa Valley (866/497-8456); Zinfandel vinegar, $12, and lime olive oil, $18; O Olive Oil (ooliveoil.com).

Mann and Kendall Wilkinson. Christopher Boshears dresses his bust of Daniel Webster with a greenery garland and clips cards to that, while Kemble secures cards to the inside of her cabinets. "I see the special people in my life every time I grab a spice," she says.

And although the holiday encourages the spirit of giving (and the generosity of these designers to help those in need is extensive ➤

FAMILY SECRETS

Surprise friends with the recipe only your mom knows how to make. For **Kenneth Brown**, it's an easy tea-and-spice mix his mom has concocted for years. You'll need 1 cup each of the following: Lipton instant tea with sugar and lemon, Lipton plain instant tea, sugar, and orange Tang; and 1 teaspoon each ground cloves and cinnamon. Mix ingredients. Stir 2–3 teaspoons of mix into 1 cup of hot water. **Tobi Fairley** gives functional, monogrammed pieces such as an acrylic recipe box perfect for sharing recipes.

Monogrammed recipe cards and box, $80; Dabney Lee at Home (dabneyleeathome.com).

Designers tap into their inner artist to craft gifts from the heart. Each year, **Eileen Boyd** paints beautiful watercolors, while **Erin Pitts** sews burlap stockings for every client. The easy-to-make decoration is a natural twist to traditional, embellished versions.

1. Make a pattern out of cardboard. Trace pattern with white chalk onto burlap, then cut two pieces with pinking shears.
2. Stack pieces, then sew together with white thread in a zigzag stitch. Hand-finish edges with whipstitch in contrasting, thicker white or red thread.
3. Paint wood letter (available at craft stores), and attach to top corner of stocking with ribbon.

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and impressive), our crew of style experts have dreams, too, some that stretch back decades. A car is a rite of passage for teenage boys—just ask Boshears. "I wanted a car, but Mom and Dad gave me a Snoopy Volkswagen ornament instead," he says. Eileen Boyd, Sheldon Harte, and Frank Ponterio still wouldn't mind finding their dream cars hiding in the garage on Christmas morning. Ponterio admits, "As a child, I loved anything having to do with cars. Now, I love anything to do with really *nice* cars." Santa, are you listening? ➤

What's your favorite gift to give?

Practical but opulent is the designer plan for gifts this year. "It's easier to be extravagant for others than oneself," says **Barry Dixon.** Dixon, along with **Celerie Kemble** and **Annsley McAleer,** loves good bath products, especially the endless options from Jo Malone. **Laura Day** suggests fragrance via chic candles with unobtrusive scents. **Barclay Butera** picks a coffee-table book on the recipient's interest. "Everyone loves beautiful, glossy photography," says Butera.

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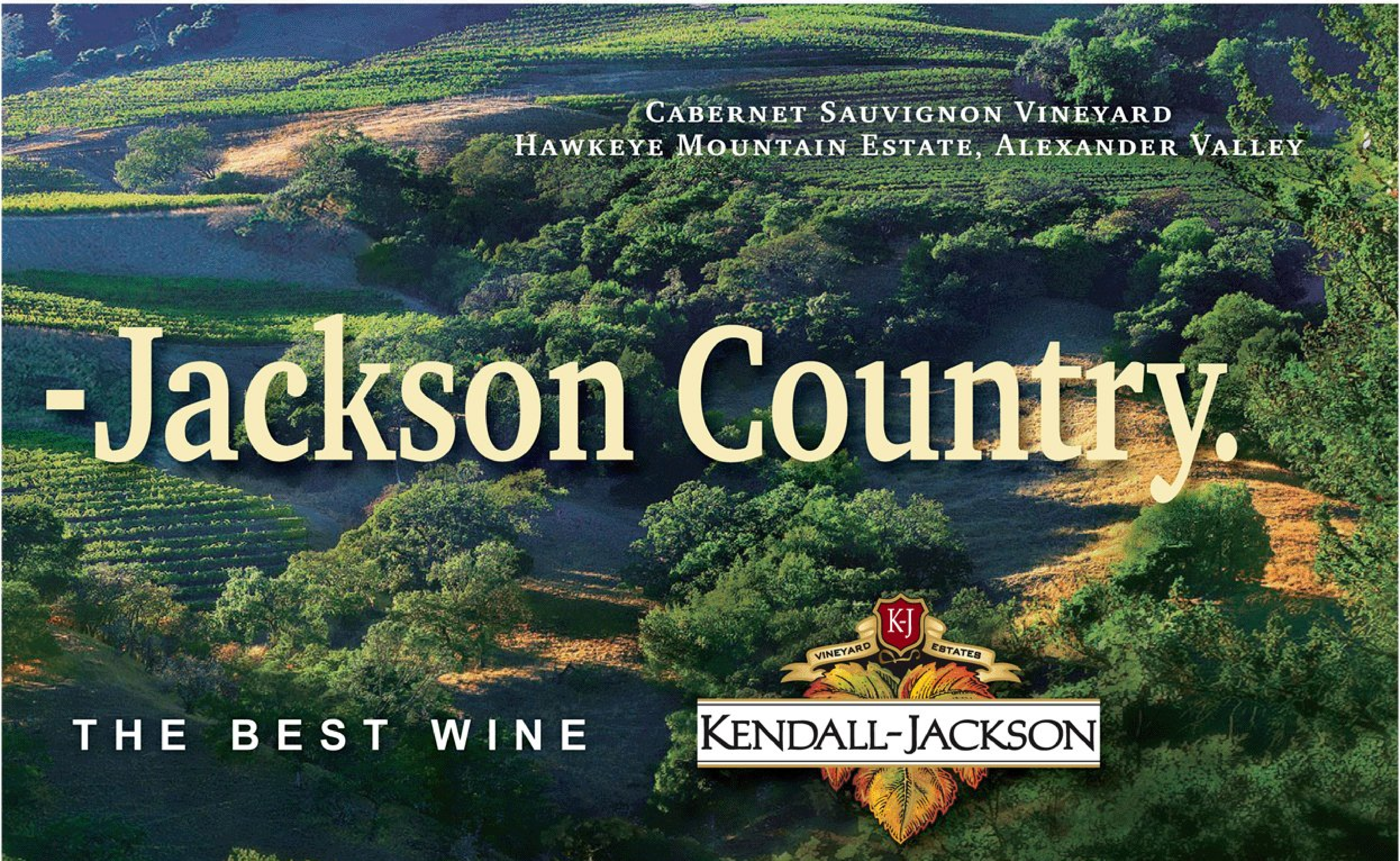
Designer gift ideas: Hot chocolate, $25, and tea, $10; MarieBelle New York (mariebelle.com). Body cream, $75, and body wash, $50; Jo Malone (jomalone.com). Candle, $76; Vie Luxe (candleluxury.com). Brown sugar body cream, $35; Fresh (fresh.com). Coffee table books; Assouline (assouline.com) and Taschen (taschen.com).

What was your favorite childhood gift?

Designers' Christmas nostalgia revealed stylemakers in the works from an early age. Our designing women all found wonderment in the chic sensibilities of Barbie. **Alexa Hampton**, **Tobi Fairley**, and **Kara Mann** also reveled in furnishings for their dollhouses. **David Stark's** imagination ignited with a box of scrap ribbon, fabric, and paper. "This was a glorious puppet-making kit—better than the hot toys that crazed the nation."

For Barbie wannabes: Giuseppe Zanotti's platform heels with red and black rhinestones, $979; Zappos Couture (couture.zappos.com).



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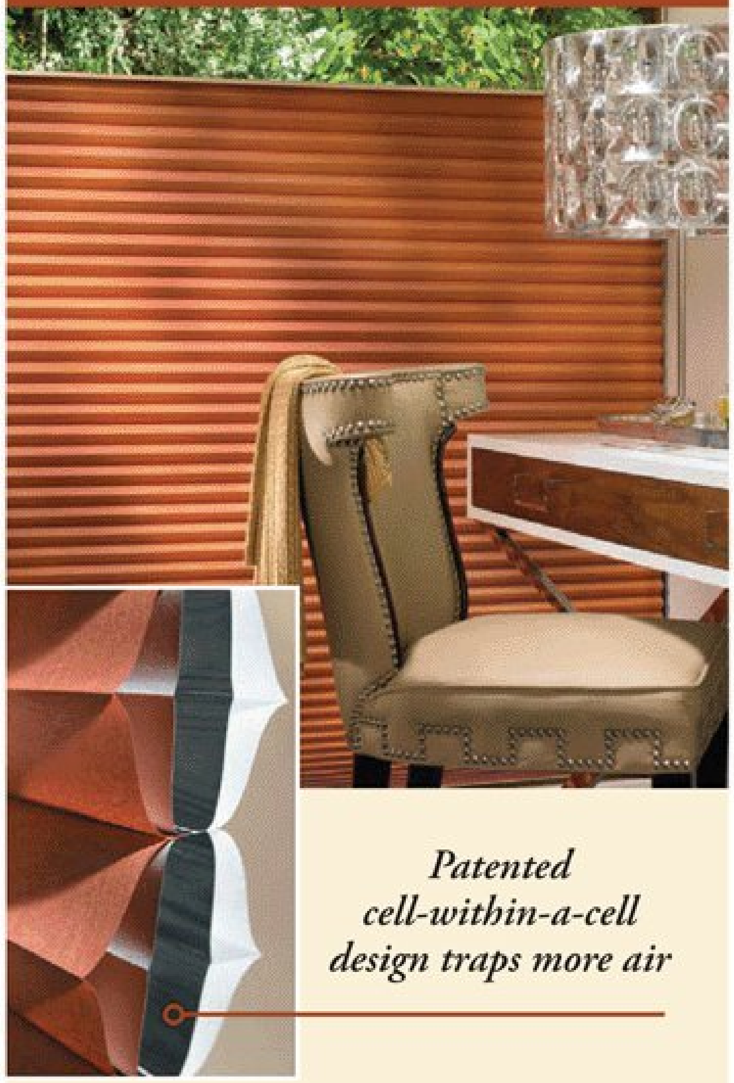

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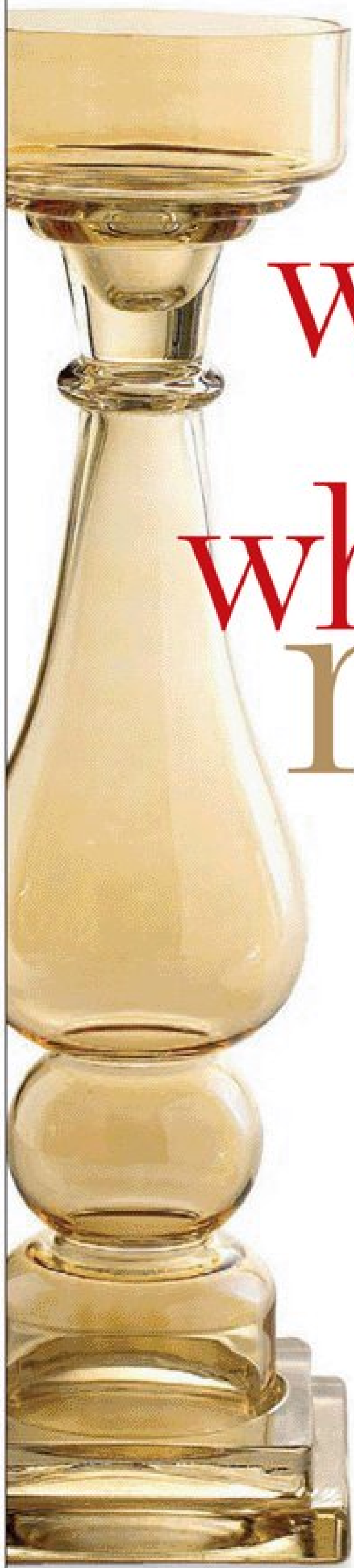
BY SABINE ROTHMAN AND AMY BLEIER LONG



what's new, what's next

Vivienne Tam
A fashionista comes home

Cherry blossoms. Peonies. Fretwork. Chairman Mao. The classic Chinese motifs that fashion designer Vivienne Tam has made her own for apparel were born in Asia but have become the gold standard in cross-cultural appeal. Her line for Rowe (rowefurniture.com), available in early 2010, displays a similarly global blend of tradition and stylish individualism. Striking furniture like her "Camellia" lounge chair could spice up a city loft or a richly layered retreat.

Cindy Crawford
Top model, top design

Helen of Troy may have launched a thousand ships, but super-beauty Cindy faces a more aesthetic launch—a new line of home furnishings and accessories for JCPenney (jcpenney.com). Her chic accents include this "Amber Luster Candle Holder," the perfect holiday touch.

Frédéric Malle
Knowing nose of a master alchemist

A perfumer's art blends science, imagination—and leaps of faith. No one knows this better than impresario Frédéric Malle; he's tapped the world's best noses to create scents that "become one with the wearer." Now the elegant alchemist is launching nine refined home fragrances meant to "participate in your life," like a bouquet of flowers that you note in passing (editionsdeparfums.com). He has found new ways to dispense his fragrance with Rubber Incense, *above right,* recyclable plastic rubber sheets permeated with "Saint des Saints," a scent that evokes the smoky mystery of Indian temples. Also available are his Fleur Mécanique, a glossy red diffuser, and candles in all nine scents.

VIVIENNE TAM PORTRAIT, BEN GOLDSTEIN

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Update: Tartan

Familiar patterns walk a fine line

Tartan has a tumultuous history. Banned from 1747 to 1782 as a symbol of Scottish rebellion, these plaids became trendy when Queen Victoria made Balmoral a royal residence and used her favorite *setts* (patterns) in the decor. Now tartan's as hot as ever, just in time to ward off winter's chill. Check out the Jeffrey Banks ornaments and mugs (hsn.com) and David H. Mitchell's pillows (800/805-1314). And with new iterations of tartans—on glass tiles from Trend USA and trompe l'oeil wallpaper by Vivienne Westwood for Cole & Son—we won't ever rule out this classic.

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BY LAURA HELLER

Whipping up fantastic meals is a snap with **the newest kitchen technology**

computer cooks

Cookbooks and recipe cards aren't the only go-to sources for cooks today. They are quickly being replaced by computers and hand-held electronics, which are dishing out recipes, how-to tips, and calorie counts at lightning speed. The latest technology is even affecting kitchen design. Computers have soared to the top of the wish list during remodels, says Rebekah Zaveloff, a designer at Chicago-based KitchenLab. "There isn't a single client who doesn't ask for that," she says. Doing it right means having the right space and the appropriate product.

HP's TouchSmart computer was among the first kitchen-specific PCs, featuring a touch-screen surface now familiar to users of such "smart" devices as the iPhone. The newest HP model goes one step further, using voice prompts. The computer will "read" cooking directions and respond to voice commands, taking you through each step of a recipe. No more losing your place or scrolling through a screen with sticky hands—just speak to the built-in microphone or use a Bluetooth wireless headset. A "recipe box" feature collects your favorites from Web sites and stores them in one location on your computer.

The technology goes well beyond cooking. Computers like the TouchSmart have built-in TV tuners and Blu-ray drives that play movies in true high definition. You can have video chats, make phone calls over the Internet, and use the calendar features to manage schedules for your family.

The HP TouchSmart isn't the only option. Asus EeeTop is a pearly white touch-screen portable computer (asus.com). Notebook computers and their smaller cousins, netbooks, will sit nicely on a countertop. Add a waterproof, washable keyboard and mouse, but take care—they're still laptops.

Standard gaming devices like the Nintendo DS add an element of fun to cooking for kids of all ages. Celebrity chefs like Jamie Oliver and Gordon Ramsay have created games that teach cooking skills and incorporate actual recipes, while the smart phones get you quick access to online references like menu planners and healthy hints. Owners of iPhones have access to applications for measurement conversions or nutritional facts.

Creating a work station in your kitchen is as easy as propping a laptop or desktop monitor on a counter. Because most Web browsing, recipe reading, and prep work is done standing, a surface at counter height is preferable to a desktop. You can always keep a stool nearby in case you want to sit. With all the cooking sites available, you may never want to log off.

Above: The HP TouchSmart "reads" recipes and responds to voice prompts. Price starts at $900 (hp.com). **Right:** A flexible, waterproof Adesso keyboard stands up to kitchen duty; $34.99 (adesso.com).

PHOTOGRAPHS: PETER KRUMHARDT

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CUT COUPON ALONG DOTTED LINE

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BY AMY ELBERT PHOTOGRAPHY BY EMILY FOLLOWILL PRODUCED BY LISA MOWRY WITH ANNETTE JOSEPH

tried & true believers

1 eco-elegant hood is scagliola stone, a blend of crushed travertine, limestone, and marble. Francois & Co. also makes reproduction hoods and fireplace mantels using reclaimed limestone (francoisandco.com).

2 close-to-home cabinets were custom built by Atlanta-area carpenters, conserving fuel that would have been used for trucking.

A LOVE OF MIXING OLD AND NEW MATERIALS GROWS INTO A **DESIGN BUSINESS WITH HEART**

Kim Nielsen didn't start out trying to be an eco designer. It was her fondness for old homes and her tendency to incorporate reclaimed architectural features—from doors to bricks to clawfoot bathtubs—into rooms that set her course. "I guess by using reclaimed materials we fell into being green without even realizing it," says Kim, who with her husband, Tim, renovates residences and builds and designs new homes in Atlanta. "When designing a new house, I immediately think of what old elements we can introduce," she says. "They give the house much more character." ➤

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green space

3 sustainable benches

are covered in organic cotton and padded with soy-based foam. Frames are made of wood harvested from certified and responsibly managed forests (leeindustries.com).

4 holiday decorations

in warm, natural tones complement the dark-stained cabinets. Simple cardboard trees are wrapped with fabric and copper wire; gift wrap is recycled paper.

5 energy-efficient

appliances include two dishwasher drawers (fisherpaykel.com) and a standard-door dishwasher (bosch-home.com). The Energy Star washers use less electricity and water to clean dishes efficiently.

That element of character is important to Kim and Tim, who often design new homes in established neighborhoods. "We strive to make a new or renovated home look as if it has always been there," Kim says.

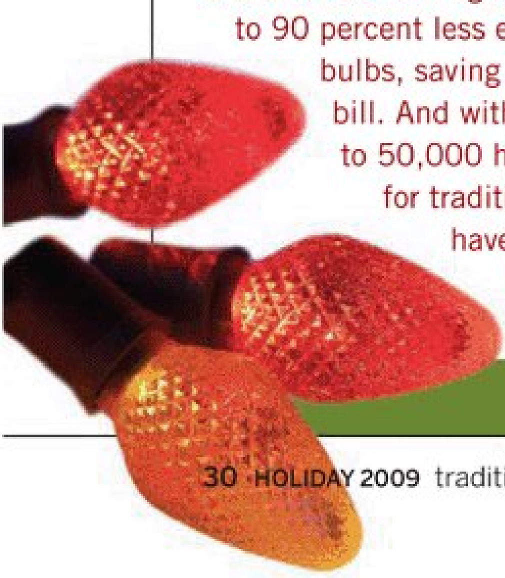
While using salvaged materials sparked their interest in green building, the Nielsens are now true believers. When they built their Federal-style brick home in Atlanta, the couple included environmentally friendly products such as water-conserving plumbing fixtures, energy-efficient appliances, cellulose insulation (made from old newspapers), and low-E (emissivity) windows.

The home has since been sold to new owners, Caperton and Drew Putt, who appreciate how the Nielsens blended eco materials and a modern open floor plan with period styling.

The 9x13-foot kitchen opens to the house's main living area for an arrangement that is conducive to today's kitchen-centric living. "It is important to utilize all of the house's space," Kim says. "There are no extra rooms where you might sit only a couple times a year." No wasted rooms means no wasted heating and cooling costs.

The new homeowners even purchased some of the Nielsens' green furnishings, including twin counter-height benches that provide seating at the two islands. ➤

BRIGHT LIGHTS Switch on the magic and keep it glowing with holiday lights powered by LEDs (light-emitting diodes). The lights are available in a rainbow of colors, festive shapes, and even as flashing strands. LED bulbs use up to 90 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs, saving you money on your utility bill. And with a life span of 35,000 to 50,000 hours (compared to 1,500 for traditional lights), LEDs don't have to be replaced as often. (environmentallights.com).



Atlanta designer Kim Nielsen teams with her husband, Tim, to design and build classic homes incorporating sustainable features.

PHOTOGRAPH: LED LIGHTS, PETER KRUMHARDT

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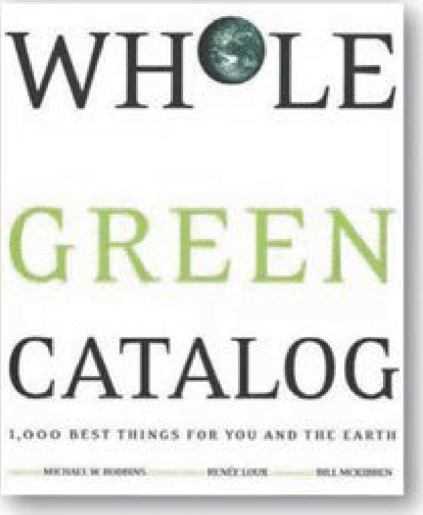
6 **tall insulated windows** on each side of the range maximize natural light let into the home. Low-E glass saves energy (monarchwindows.com).

7 **tankless water heater** saves up to 40 percent of energy costs because it heats water only when needed rather than storing gallons of hot water in a tank; from Rinnai Corp. (rinnai.us).

8 **natural marble** with gray and brown veining covers countertops and backsplashes for a classic, uncluttered look.

WHAT'S FOR DINNER?



We want to serve our families the best foods, but who has time to cook? The new 400-page *Whole Green Catalog: 1,000 Best Things for You and the Earth* (Rodale, $29.95) has plenty of suggestions for easy-fix foods that are good for your family and the environment.

"The green goal is to eat low on the food chain—to make fresh, minimally processed plant-based foods from your own region the cornerstone of your diet," the authors advise. When buying meat, opt for cuts from pasture-raised livestock, which is higher in "good" fats, antioxidants, and vitamins.

With an introduction by Renée Loux of the *Traditional Home* Green Advisory Panel, the book explores the eco side of nearly every aspect of our lives. Chapters provide green ideas for categories, including housekeeping, beauty aids, travel, raising children, electronics, transportation, and pet care. Printed on 100 percent post-consumer waste paper, the *Whole Green Catalog* demonstrates that living a sustainable and green life no longer has to mean inconvenience, added expenses, or sacrifice (wholegreencatalog.com).

The bench cushions are made from soy-based foam, covered in organic cotton, and are built with wood from managed forests. Even the springs in the bench seats are made from 80 percent recycled metal.

The focal-point vent hood by Atlanta-based Francois & Co. looks like antique stone but is actually a composite of recycled crushed limestone, travertine, and marble that is formed to replicate an antique fireplace chimney hood.

A 9-foot-tall refrigerator armoire provides another dramatic focal point. Kim designed the cabinets with a simple beaded inset and little ornamentation, and had them built nearby to save on trucking and gas consumption.

An Energy Star tankless water heater provides an unlimited supply of hot water on demand, consuming considerably less energy than a standard tank-style water heater. When hot water taps are turned on, a gas-fired heat exchanger brings the water to the desired temperature within seconds.

The Nielsens are now building a new home for their family and are again employing green practices. "There are so many benefits to building a green home," Kim says. "The up-front expenses pay for themselves in the long run with lower energy and water bills, tax credits, an increase in your home's value, and a healthier style of living."

For more information, see sources on page 90

HEAT AND MOISTURE FROM A DISHWASHER WILL CAUSE A REFRIGERATOR TO USE MORE ENERGY TO COOL, SO KEEP THEM APART.

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set design

the designing director

BY CATHY WHITLOCK

PHOTOGRAPHS: MELINDA SUE GORDON/UNIVERSAL PICTURES

WRITER-DIRECTOR NANCY MEYERS **OFFERS A SNEAK PEEK** AT THE SETS OF HER UPCOMING FILM

Steve Martin and Meryl Streep in *It's Complicated*, a romantic comedy in theaters on Christmas Day. Shades of orange are used as accents throughout the film—an homage to the rich colors of Santa Barbara, the film's locale. The overall design, including the "Belgian look" of the interiors, came from director Nancy Meyers.

Take a serene Santa Barbara setting with to-die-for interiors, add a triangle mixing love, divorce, and renovation, and you have all the elements of an unusual romantic comedy.

The sophisticated yet relaxed California-style interiors in Universal's upcoming film *It's Complicated* (in theaters on Christmas Day) will vie for attention with a star-studded cast—Meryl Streep, Alec Baldwin, and Steve Martin. The comedy weaves the tale of a divorced mother of three and bakery owner (Streep, as Jane) involved romantically with both her ex-husband (Baldwin) and the architect (Martin) working on her kitchen renovation.

Written and directed by Nancy Meyers (who has given us such design-rich films as *Something's Gotta Give* and *The Holiday*), ➤

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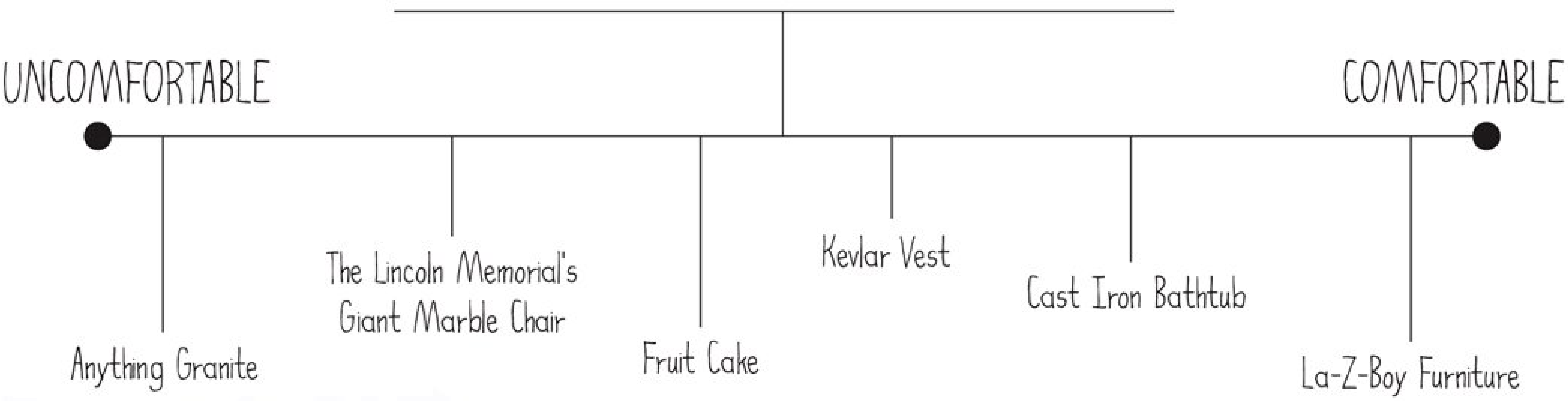
DURABILITY COMFORT INDEX



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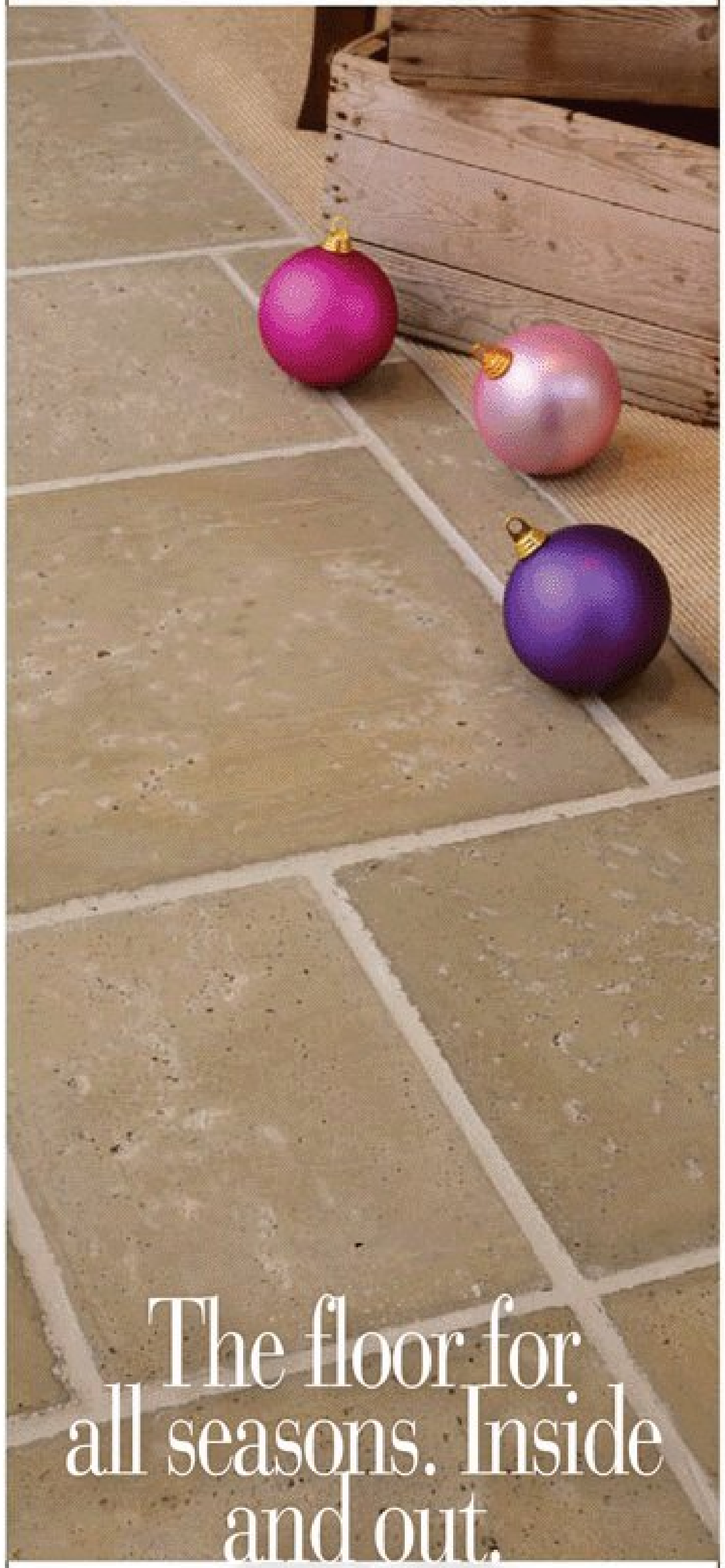

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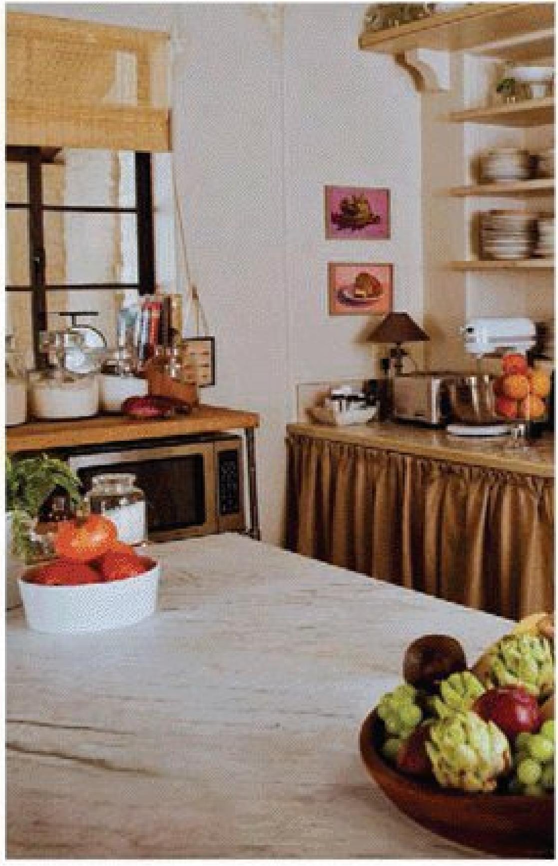

It's Complicated, in true Meyers fashion, features a strong female lead, snappy dialogue, a memorable sound track, and trend-setting interiors.

Besides being a master with pen and camera lens, Meyers is a design devotee as well—her imprint is seen in every club chair, paint color, and light fixture.

As in all Meyers' movies, the house as character plays a major role. A divorcée facing an impending empty nest, Streep's Jane decides to redecorate her 1920s Spanish-style ranch. "Since more than half of the movie takes place in the house, we really get to know the place," says Meyers. "What the characters wear and how they live and decorate really says something about them."

The film reunites the director with production designer Jon Hutman. "My job is to try to understand and interpret Nancy's vision," says Hutman. "What I do, with special guidance from Nancy, is make the sets real, striking something in people."

Working with set decorator Beth Rubino (who decorated the interiors of the beach house in *Something's Gotta Give*), Hutman designed the sets with one thing in mind—storytelling.

Ever the method actress, Streep inhabits both her character and space when making a movie. "Meryl got involved very early in the process," says Hutman. "She had special ideas on who the character was and how she lived."

As a career woman and mother who is also building a house, Meyers seems to have much in common with her main character. (One exception—she is not involved with her architect.)

For more on the *It's Complicated* set, **visit traditionalhome.com.**

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Nancy's movies **exhibit a casual elegance**, not just a fancy way of life.

—PRODUCTION DESIGNER JON HUTMAN

Above and right: The open kitchen receives a makeover in the movie and plays a pivotal role. "The kitchen has individual style," notes designer Jon Hutman. "It's makeshift and funky." He and set decorator Beth Rubino studied Tuscan, California, and French kitchens to arrive at the finished design. **Below left:** Interiors reflect a sophisticated influence mixed with California casual. The decor had to highlight Streep's fair complexion as well, so Meyers used "creams and beiges that would capture the beauty of her skin." Note the ever-present orange.

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"Arcades" porcelain dinnerware by Philippe Deshoulières through Michael C. Fina (michaelcfina.com). "Whitework" linens; Gayle Warwick. "Orsini" crystal wineglasses and "Glascow" crystal water goblets in amber; Theresienthal. Linens and crystal through The Silver Peacock (212/426-2610).

BY KRISSA ROSSBUND
PHOTOGRAPHY BY
WERNER STRAUBE

taking the time

FRIENDS CREATE THEIR **OWN TRADITIONS**

Longtime friends and neighbors Gloria and Arnold Ventura and Sarah and Shawn McCann don't let a calendar filled with family gatherings and holiday parties get in the way of their own special seasonal celebration. Even before children entered the picture, each year the two young couples alternated hosting a Sunday Christmas brunch to catch up on family, friends, and work stories before the season's frenzy began. ➤

Catherine Bailly Dunne (left) and Tanis McGregor use a family recipe as a door decoration for an annual holiday brunch.

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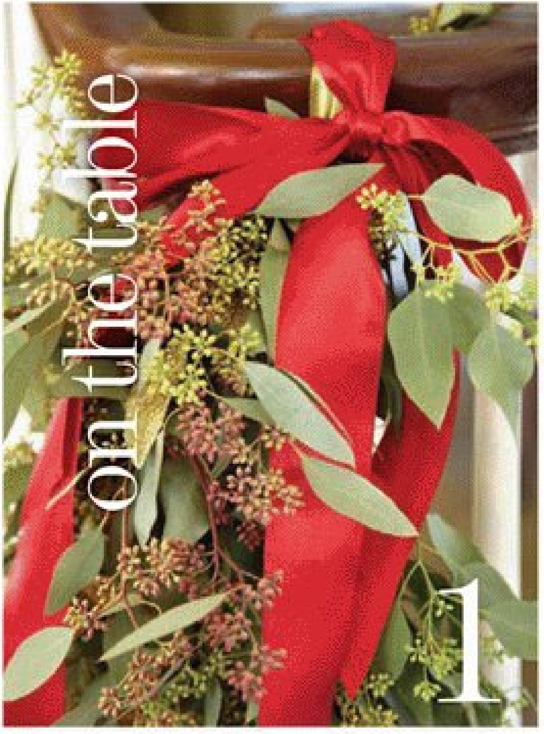
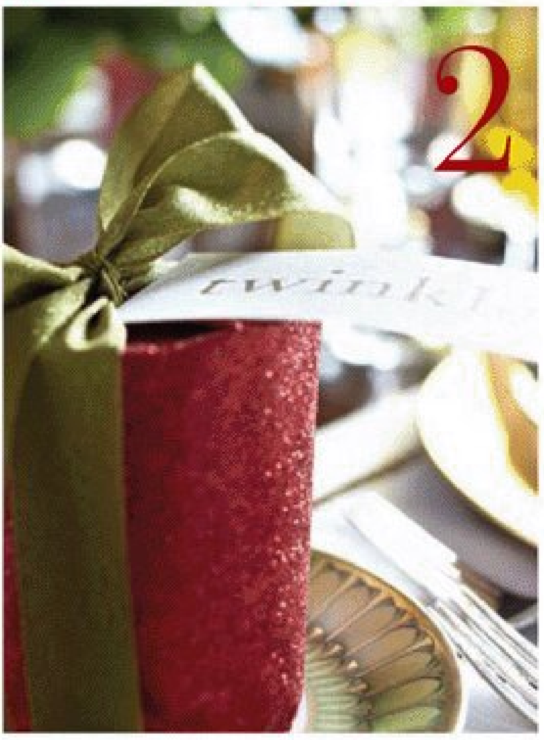
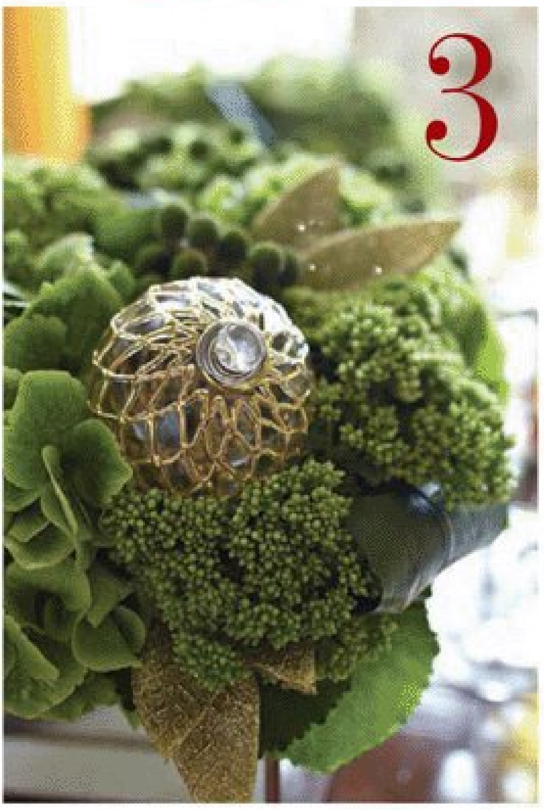






PARTY-PERFECT TABLE SETTINGS

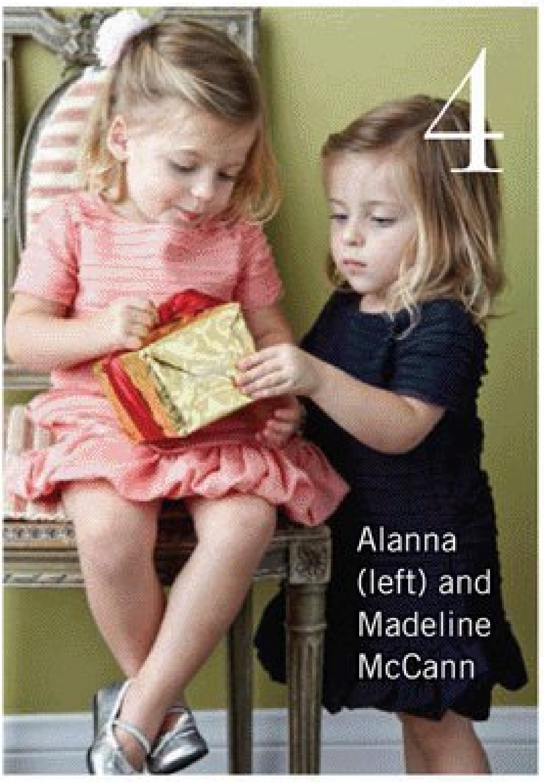
Little details created with simple products like ornaments, fun paper, and ribbon can elevate the occasion to an exceptional level.

1. GO GREEN (and a little red) Don't sweat elaborate Christmas florals. Fresh greenery is always sophisticated, blends with all holiday schemes, and offers a clean fragrance. This swag, hung on the banister with red satin ribbon, is from Floral Art (floralartla.com).

2. TAKE-HOME TRADITION Put together ingredients for a family recipe (as in the package shown here with the makings of Gloria's mother's nut bread). CDs of holiday music or ornaments also make great take-away favors. Glitter paper, ribbon, and tags are from Paper Source (paper-source.com).

3. FESTIVE ARRANGEMENTS Inject luxe into a centerpiece by tucking in gold and silver ornaments. Floral Art (floralartla.com).

4. KID-FRIENDLY FARE When kids are in tow, keep the party simple. Plan food that can be fixed ahead (a favorite soup or lasagna, for instance). Have a project ready to keep young guests occupied.



Alanna (left) and Madeline McCann

Long before this year's meal is served, Tanis McGregor and Catherine Bailly Dunne of Door Couture were contacted for ideas on how to make the event memorable for both families. A handcrafted invitation—paper on one side, magnet paper on the other, and tied with a ribbon—was delivered to the McCanns' home and hung on the doorknob. "An intimate meal with close neighbors doesn't warrant a formal invitation," explains Tanis. "But it's fun for one family to go through the process of hand-delivering the invitation and for members of the other family to have the surprise of discovering it on their door. For the children, the anticipation and the big countdown begin."

Mindful of the busy schedules the two couples endure with careers and young children, the holiday brunch was purposely planned for Sunday and kept simple but elegant, with elements having just enough pizzazz to create a festive mood.

Apple-green porcelain plates aren't specific to Christmas but are well-suited for the meal. Metallic touches on the dinner ➤

Below: Shawn and Sarah McCann (at left) of Pasadena, California, annually celebrate Christmas at a Sunday brunch with longtime friends Gloria and Arnold Ventura and both couples' young children.

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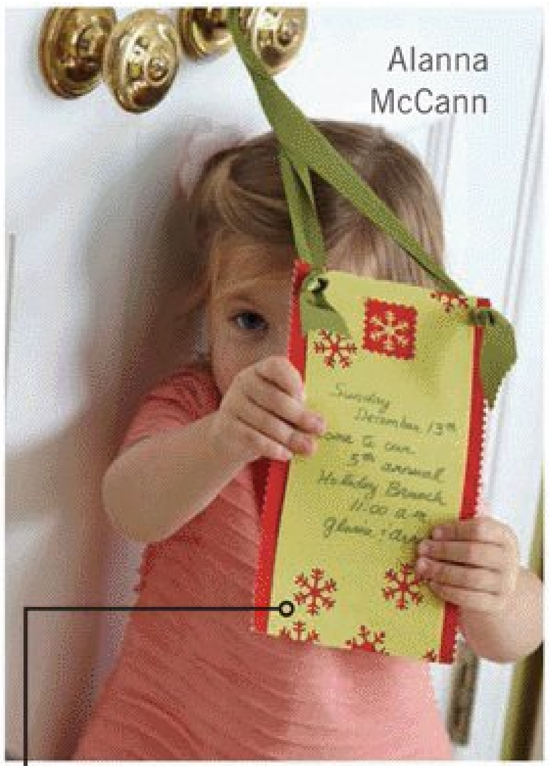
SPOTLIGHT A FAMILY RECIPE Instead of a conventional wreath, Catherine and Tanis bedecked the front door with an oversized recipe card displaying the nut bread recipe of Gloria's mother. Wooden spoons and colorful ornaments top the card. The two Door Couture owners adjust their approach to entertaining to accommodate the unique nuances of each special event (doorcouture.com).



Alanna McCann

ensemble—including service plates that anchor the porcelain, gold-rimmed amber wineglasses, and white linens hem-stitched in gold—give the basics a luxurious charge.

Holidays are about traditions, and Gloria made sure that everyone was only an oven away from a favorite family nut bread recipe, baked in a #2 tin can. A can containing key ingredients—the full recipe is listed on the door decoration—was wrapped in sparkly paper and placed at each table setting.

"It's easy to neglect friends during the holidays, when coordinating everyone's activities is difficult," says Catherine. "A low-key brunch is a fun way to keep track of growing families." ■

DESIGNATE AN OVER-THE-TOP DESSERT There's no need to fuss over a time-consuming entrée with hard-to-find ingredients. Instead, up the ante for desserts. The sculptural nature of a croquembouche—a tower of filled pastry puffs—is visually exciting, and its bite-sized portions make it nicely manageable for children.

LEAVE A SURPRISE FOR YOUR GUEST If only a couple of invitations are required, make and hand-deliver them yourself (a great idea for a neighborhood block party). This invite is backed with magnet paper so it can stick directly onto the refrigerator as a save-the-date reminder. All supplies through Paper Source (paper-source.com).

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Festive Farro Salad with Roasted Veggies

- 1 17.6-ounce package farro grain (3 cups)
- ¼ cup olive oil, divided
- 1 head cauliflower, chopped (4 cups)
- 1 pint cherry tomatoes
- 1 bunch fresh basil, chopped (1½ cups)
- ¼ teaspoon crushed red pepper
- Salt and black pepper

This hearty side dish is made with farro grain, found at Italian import food stores.

Preheat oven to 400°F. In large saucepan bring 6 cups salted water to boil. Add farro; reduce heat. Cover and simmer 20 minutes, until tender; drain. Toss farro with 2 tablespoons oilive oil; set aside to cool. In shallow baking pan toss cauliflower with 1 tablespoon olive oil. Roast, uncovered, 35 minutes, until lightly browned and crisp. Add cauliflower and pan juices to farro. Add cherry tomatoes to baking pan. Roast, uncovered, 12 minutes, until tomatoes blister and skins begin to burst. Add tomatoes and pan juices to bowl of farro. Add basil and red pepper and toss to combine. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve at room temperature or chill. Makes 10–12 servings.

Recipe from Huckleberry (huckleberrycafe.com)

What's croquembouche? How do you make it? **Find out at traditionalhome.com.**

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WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY JENNY BRADLEY

PHOTOGRAPHY BY WERNER STRAUBE

let it snow

PAPER DESIGNER EBONY SNOW CHAFEY BANISHES **BAH-HUMBUGS WITH HOLIDAY OFFERINGS**

Nothing can awaken one's inner Scrooge during the holidays quite like gift wrapping gone awry. It generally starts off well. Jolly holiday spirits swell as the gifts and accoutrements are gathered, eggnog is poured, and *It's a Wonderful Life* is cued. Visions of the perfect creased corner and precisely placed bow dance in our heads.

Then, somehow, it begins to slowly unravel. Unruly paper overflows the kitchen table, refusing to yield as we fold, cut, and finally crumple. Tape fragments adhere where they ➤

MAKEUP: ROBBIE MINJAREZ; HAIR: COHL KATZ; STYLIST: SHAYE STRAGER AT STUDIO PR

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shouldn't and miraculously disappear from fingertips, never to be found again. Paper tears. Ribbon tangles. Bows flatten.

Ebony Snow Chafey, owner of Snow & Graham—a letterpress company based in Chicago—understands. She's in the business and learned from the best.

"Believe it or not, my grandpa taught me to wrap presents," laughs Ebony. "I remember him showing me how to fold the ends of a package—and to perfectly crease the edges. He was a colonel in the Air Force and incredibly detail-oriented. I have such a vivid memory of it." ➤

EBONY'S **TOP 10** WRAPPING TIPS

❶ If you have young children, assign a signature paper to each one so they can easily identify their gifts under the tree. ❷ Have a large plastic envelope nearby for leftover paper. It keeps the pieces nice and flat so you can reuse for small packages. ❸ Save smaller paper scraps for kids to use for collages and crafts. ❹ Skip the ribbon on kids' gifts, and use brightly colored masking tape instead. ❺ For gifts piled high on Christmas morning, use flat decorations instead of bows. ❻ Cut off the backs of old Christmas cards, and use the fronts as gift tags. ❼ Use a glue stick instead of tape. Ebony swears it's easier! ❽ For large gifts, use plain white or mailing paper embellished with a bellyband of more decorative paper. ❾ Keep ribbon scraps rolled up in a divided jewelry or bead tray. ❿ Use a steamer trunk or vintage suitcase as a mobile wrapping station.

FIND IT: For more information or to order, visit snowandgraham.com.

Top: The woven wall pocket, $39 (ballarddesigns.com), and an old tackle box store holiday supplies. **Above:** A Snow & Graham paper chain. **Left:** A vintage tray organizes holiday trimmings. **Top left:** Artist Jennifer Khoshbin used Snow & Graham's "Ivory" paper for this deer head piece, $375 (jenkhoshbin.com).

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Indication: In the United States, JUVÉDERM® injectable gel is indicated for correction of moderate to severe facial wrinkles and folds (such as nasolabial folds).

Contraindications: JUVÉDERM® injectable gel should not be used in patients who have severe allergies marked by a history of anaphylaxis or history or presence of multiple severe allergies. JUVÉDERM® injectable gel should not be used in patients with a history of allergies to gram-positive bacterial proteins.

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TRADITIONAL HOME EXCLUSIVE PROMOTIONS, EVENTS AND OFFERS

PLAIN & FANCY

On September 23rd, Traditional Home celebrated their 20th Anniversary with Plain & Fancy at Robert Verdi's LuxeLab.

PLAIN & FANCY CUSTOM CABINETRY

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From left: Mario Buata, Ann Maine, Jamie Drake and Bryan Yahn (Plain & Fancy)

ETHAN ALLEN

Celebrating the launch of Ethan Allen's new-concept Design Center at the World Market Center in Las Vegas, Ethan Allen's Chairman, President and CEO Farooq Kathwari and the editors of Traditional Home magazine shared their visions for the future of design.

ETHAN ALLEN

From left: Sabine Rothman, Farooq Kathwari, Debi Brandt

GRANGE

Traditional Home and Grange presented "Chateau Chic," a series of design vignettes at the New York Design Center's "What's New. What's Next at 200 Lex" market event. Vignette designers included: Eddie Ross, Susanna Bozzetti-Kirschner, Sylvia Kirschner, Marcia Harris, Michelle Slovak and Elaine Spero.

GRANGE
HANDCRAFTED IN FRANCE SINCE 1904

From left: Ann Maine, Eddie Ross, Sabine Rothman

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These days, Ebony not only spends the holiday season fastidiously wrapping gifts for friends and family, but also creating modern takes on traditional holiday trimmings. Her gift wrap and letterpress designs for Snow & Graham are cheerful and bold, whimsical yet sophisticated.

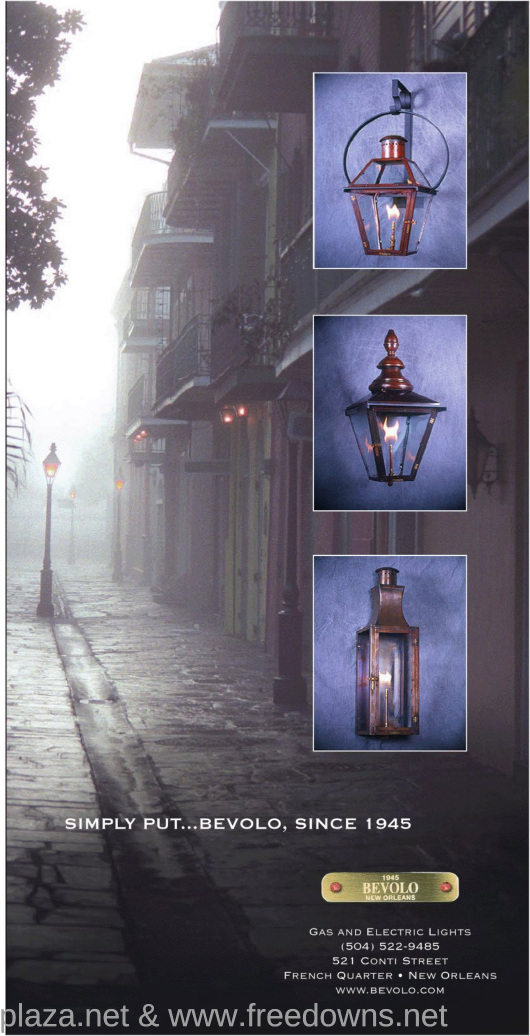
The colonel would likely approve. Since that first gift-wrapping lesson, Ebony has perfected the art of the creased corner. To stay organized, she uses everyday items in creative ways. A stainless-steel baker's cart is used for mobile storage. A vintage compartmentalized tray neatly organizes ribbons and note cards. A galvanized wine rack turned on its side separates wrapping paper while keeping it tidily rolled.

"One of the best tips is to use a tackle box or toolbox to store the smaller items—scissors, tape, etc.—so that things can be easily moved around," notes Ebony.

A dedicated space helps, too. "When I was a kid, my mom would turn our dining room into Santa's workshop, and it was hugely efficient," recalls Ebony. "If you can take over one room or space for a few days or a week or two, it makes the work much easier."

One final tip? Lose the tape. "I'm a glue stick girl," she says. "It makes the perfect edge every time!"

Above: Ebony Snow Chafey uses her trusty glue stick to put the finishing touches on a holiday gift.



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– Julia Szabo

HOLIDAY-INSPIRED SAFETY TIPS FROM DESIGNER AND ANIMAL ADVOCATE, JULIA SZABO

HAPPY HOLIDAY DECOR

Be stylish and pet-safe when decking the halls. Use common sense with lights and glass ornaments, and where possible, opt for wood and/or fabric trinkets.

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Having a home that smells like holiday spirit is easy. Start by bathing dogs with a gentle shampoo and conditioner that won't irritate winter-dry skin, such as Blue Buffalo Essentials. End by perfuming the air with a fragrant finishing spritz of clove, cinnamon, and/or rosemary essential oil.

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Sing noël

TOASTY FIRES AND FESTIVE GATHERINGS WARM THE SEASON IN **A FRENCH-INSPIRED HOME**

BY AMY ELBERT
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL PARTENIO
PRODUCED BY STACY KUNSTEL

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Christmas wouldn't be complete for the Rinfret family without an evening of snuggling under blankets around the fireplace on the back porch. After all, it's Cindy Rinfret's philosophy that if you're blessed with four seasons, you should embrace them. She has zero interest in enclosing the candlelit porch overlooking the Connecticut countryside.

"We put on parkas or sweaters, wrap up in blankets, and light a fire," she says. And if the crackling fire isn't warm enough, the family's trio of friendly golden retrievers (*aka* the Three Amigos) are more than happy to nuzzle in.

"We call it our outdoor living room," says Cindy. "We probably use that room more than any other in the house." One Christmas Eve, Cindy, her husband, Peter, and their two teenagers, Spencer and Taylor, bundled up in fur blankets and told stories around the fireplace until 3 a.m. "We had the fire going, and all the candles were lit. It's all about creating memories."

In many ways, the house is inspired by memories—family trips to Europe and Asia, and Peter's teen years at a boarding school in Normandy, France. "We wanted a house with a Normandy farmhouse feel to it," Cindy says. That translates to spaces that are elegant, but most of all, relaxed, comfortable, and inviting.

When the couple found a five-plus-acre lot in Greenwich that backed up to hundreds of acres of protected wetlands, their dreams began to take shape. Finding an architect who shared their vision, however, required a trip to Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Left: The pine-paneled library acts as a sitting room for the nearby master bedroom. A houndstooth-patterned sisal wall covering adds texture when paired with the Federal-style mantel and pine cabinetry, designed by homeowner and designer Cindy Rinfret. **Below:** Two of the family's three golden retrievers sit by French doors just outside the library. The narrow holiday trees are set in rustic pots from Thailand. **Preceding page:** The white oak front door is sheltered in a stone niche.

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Cindy, who is a successful interior designer (fashion icon Tommy Hilfiger's family are regular clients) and owner of a design shop, had seen the work of architect Jack Arnold in home magazines. "His name kept coming back to me. I love his European sensibility," Cindy says.

The Rinfrets flew to Tulsa, met with Arnold, and toured several houses he had designed, including his own. "I could tell by his work that he totally got it," Cindy recalls. "He understood exactly what I had in mind." The architect regularly visits the French countryside, sketching and photographing houses, outbuildings, and architectural details. He then translates those classic styles and graceful proportions to new houses built in the United States.

"When I drive through the countryside in France, I'm very influenced by the simplicity of the architecture of the rural buildings and farmhouses, the way the buildings are clustered around courtyards," Arnold explains.

The Rinfret house—with its high-pitched rooflines, arched windows, dry-stack stone landscaping, and a stucco exterior that mimics the ancient plaster-over-stone technique used in rural France—reflects those European scenes. Arnold even beefed up the thickness of exterior walls to 12 inches to capture the character of an old structure.

Inside, he varied ceiling heights, which also replicates many of the old houses he's seen in France. Most of the Rinfrets' ceilings are 12 feet high, while the family room and master bedroom

Left: Rustic ceiling beams and white oak floors combine comfortably with refined furnishings in the living room. Armchairs next to the sofa swivel for easy conversation. "I love the mix of casual and elegant. It's like wearing jeans and a silk shirt," Cindy says. French doors flanking the sofa open to the kitchen and family room area. **Below:** The family Christmas tree sits in the opposite end of the living room near the fireplace and in front of French doors that look to a courtyard.

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vault to 20 feet. Even with soaring ceilings, the rooms feel intimate, thanks to massive French white oak ceiling beams. And because the beams are real, not simply built to resemble beams, they add authenticity. "You get some checking and twisting as the wood beams dry that you don't get with thin pieces of wood," Arnold says. "It's those details and proportions that you experience when you're in the house that make it feel authentic."

The house's H-shaped floor plan allows for rooms with windows on at least two sides, opening spaces to natural light and views of the outdoors. "Much of the house is one-room deep," Arnold explains, "so you can see through spaces and keep rooms light-filled." Tall windows with arched transoms and multiple French doors look to back and front courtyards, another European influence. "You can sit in the living room or dining room and look to both courtyards, and have a sense of connection to both of them," he says.

Cindy's previous Colonial home required her to make trips to "visit" her gardens. Now they are just a step away from

Opposite: Stone was applied to the wall above the large fireplace, dramatizing the 20-foot-high peak of the vaulted family room ceiling. The glass door to the left of the fireplace leads to the dining room and porch. **Left:** Peter, Spencer, Taylor, and Cindy with their golden retrievers, Sconset, Coatue, and Cisco, who are named after Nantucket beaches. **Below:** A wood-topped island and a refrigerator armoire give the kitchen furniture styling that blends with the adjoining family room.

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An outdoor courtyard, decorated with a vintage mirror and a wire urn filled with greens and branches, offers an interesting vignette from the house. **Top left:** Heavy oak timbers and salvaged French terra-cotta pavers contribute to the rustic feel of the back porch, which the family uses as an outdoor living room. **Left:** Steep-pitched roofs, arched windows, and courtyards were inspired by French architecture. **Far left:** Cindy hangs a wreath with help from Coatue.

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several rooms. "There's something of interest out of every window in the house," she says.

Rooms flow one to another, creating a meandering sense of discovery as people move through the house. The back porch (dubbed the outdoor living room by the family) and the dining room are reached via a window-lined gallery hall off the family room. "I love how you discover the rooms gradually," she explains. "The house has unexpected, quiet surprises." There's even a hidden staircase behind faux bookshelves in the library. The staircase is one of two that go to the children's bedrooms upstairs. The other is by the mudroom.

An understated palette of pale green and quiet khaki blends outdoors with indoors as well, adds Cindy. "The architecture was so strong, I didn't overdecorate the house. It's like a girl with good bones. She doesn't need to wear much makeup. It's the same with this house; it stands on its own."

More than a pretty face, the house has to stand up to plenty of activity, too, including teenagers Spencer, 18, and Taylor, 16, and their friends, three dogs, two cats, and a pet bird.

Floors are durable and easy-care limestone, white oak, and antique terra-cotta pavers. Cindy repurposes garden antiques for furnishings for an unexpected mix of elegant and rustic. "The whole house is meant to create comfort—in an emotional sense as well as the physical," she explains. "You feel like everything is right with the world when you're here."

Architect: Jack Arnold **For more information, see sources on page 90**

Right and below: An antique French cheese table with marble insets on the tabletop keeps the mood casual in the dining room. The walls are upholstered in a lighthearted botanical fabric that complements the framed arrangement of antique pressed flower specimens hanging above the sideboard. The Rinfrets eat most of their meals in the room, except in the summer, when they move outdoors to a dining terrace just outside the French doors.

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spectacularly simple

A NEW MEDITERRANEAN–STYLE HOME IN PACIFIC PALISADES IS **A STUDY IN ELEGANT RESTRAINT**

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY JENNY BRADLEY   PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOE SCHMELZER

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Thankfully, Klaas and Dede Vlietstra don't believe in bad omens. Having just bought a beautiful home in Pacific Palisades, California, the Vlietstras intended to make only small modifications before moving in. Unfortunately, they learned that good intentions only get you so far.

"Once we really started poking around, we found things that we simply couldn't live with," remembers Dede. "There had been five separate additions put on the house, the wiring was poorly done, and, in places, the insulation had been done with newspaper. It was a huge fire hazard."

Starting over seemed easier, so they called architect Thomas Proctor and began the two-year process of razing it and building the Mediterranean-style home they had always wanted.

Craving a home for upcoming holiday celebrations with their family—including children Nicholas, 18, and Barbara, 16—they pushed to move in before Thanksgiving, ignoring the fact that the house wasn't yet complete. "We had temporary power at first," recalls Dede. "We lived like that for a few weeks, and then—the day before Thanksgiving—we lost all power. The food was spoiling before our eyes."

While a massive power failure on Thanksgiving eve might have sent most homeowners sprinting for the closest take-out joint, the Vlietstras finally had luck—and persistence—on their side. A few hours into total darkness (and more than a few calls to the utility company), an employee from the power company happened to drive by and obligingly saved the day.

"We literally flagged him down and begged him to help," says Dede. "I hate to admit it, but I might have even turned on the tears." The waterworks obviously worked. Power was restored, Thanksgiving dinner preparation continued, and the family moved on to phase two of their premature move-in.

"We were so busy with the rebuild we completely forgot that we had to furnish the house," laughs Dede. "We thought we could do it ourselves, then woke up one morning and realized we'd painted our bedroom Pepto-Bismol pink. We called Catherine immediately. She absolutely rescued this house."

Designer Catherine Bailly Dunne remembers it differently. "I was blessed that Klaas and Dede knew quality. It was just a matter of helping them pick out the things they loved."

Although the house is large, architect Proctor paid special attention to creating rooms that are manageable in size. "I never feel as though I need to shout to be heard," says Dede. "I didn't want a house that seemed too large."

Opposite: Simple holiday decor shimmers against the living room's white walls—inspired by a plain white T-shirt. **Left:** Velvet-clad sofas in the living room face each other across a marble mantel designed by architect Thomas Proctor. **Above:** The home's pediment-crowned entry opens onto a private courtyard. **Preceding pages:** Limestone floors and a groin-vaulted ceiling greet guests in the front entry. ■ The Christmas tree glitters in gold and green.

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It may not be Versailles, but step through the Mediterranean-style facade, past the courtyard fountain designed by Klaas, and into the groin-vaulted front entry, and this home feels more South of France than Southern California.

The restrained color scheme is infused with Provence-inspired yellows and blues, with hints of eucalyptus blue thrown in for good measure—this is California, after all. Gilt-frame Louis XVI-style chairs (with French blue upholstery, of course) hold court in the dining room. Bergères are sprinkled throughout. Even the Christmas decor has Francophile tendencies—petite Eiffel towers dangle from tree limbs and dot tabletops.

"If I'd had my way entirely, I probably would have picked out even more French antiques," says Dede. "Catherine helped me balance it with more up-to-date pieces."

"No one wants over-the-top," notes Dunne. "That's not how people live. It doesn't look authentic. You want to mix antiques with more contemporary pieces."

Over the holidays, the family congregates in the well-used living room—designed with entertaining in mind. Two large

Opposite: In the dining room, the glow of the golden-hued Murano glass chandelier mixes flawlessly with walnut woodwork above and dainty gilt-frame chairs below. **Above left:** Dede Vlietstra with Labrador retrievers Homer and Cousteau. **Left:** Glittering pinecones, diminutive Eiffel towers, and gleaming gold place settings in the dining room create a glamorous holiday tabletop. **Above:** Dede's favorite room? The kitchen. "I could live in this kitchen," she says. "Actually, I do!"

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velvet-clad sofas face each other in the center of the room, flanking the carved marble mantel designed by Proctor. Pairs of bergères, tucked into quiet corners like smitten teenagers, are impeccably placed for those intimate tête-à-têtes.

The living room's wall color, a perfect foil for rich walnut woodwork and refined French furnishings, was inspired by an unusual source. "We just couldn't find the perfect shade of white," says Dede. "The painter walked in one morning wearing a white T-shirt, and I said, 'That's it! That's the white I want.' Our living room is now the color of our painter's T-shirt."

In the sparingly furnished dining room, an opulent Murano glass chandelier betrays its Italian roots, socializing with French antiques and reproductions—its understated golden hue playing off the gilded chairs below. Shimmery pinecones and those ubiquitous Eiffel towers festoon the family's antique dining table throughout the holiday season, and the occasional modest wreath or garland will be espied, but overall, decorations are kept to a minimum.

"I've accumulated things over time, but I try to keep Christmas decorations simple," says Dede. "To me, it makes the things you do put out all the more meaningful."

While the interiors might be described by some as formal, Dunne's marching orders were strictly this: *Keep it livable.* "Believe it or not," says Dede, "the suede dining chairs have never been a problem. We've even had the kids making gingerbread houses with frosting in the dining room. That's the house we wanted to live in. Elegant but user-friendly."

The same rule applies to the kitchen. Visitors might find stains on the marble countertop (the better to remember holiday spills past) and dishes from a recent dinner piled in the generous apron-front sinks, but that's how Dede likes it. "I was adamant that I wanted personality in this house," she says. "It's evident that we live here. And I love that. It's life."

Upstairs, the lofty master bedroom is well-suited for Klaas, whose 6-foot-4-inch frame made diminutive pieces impossible. The painted four poster's generous proportions offer a prominent perch from which the couple can gaze out over the canyon that slopes off just beyond their back door. The ideal place for a little daydreaming—or travel planning.

"The best thing about this house is that it could be in France. It could be anywhere," says Dede. "It's like we're on vacation, except that at the end of the day I have to do the dishes."

Architect: Thomas Proctor **Interior designer:** Catherine Bailly Dunne

For more information, see sources on page 90

Right: Refined patterns and an understated palette replaced the master bedroom's previous pink scheme. **Above:** The master bedroom's window seat overlooks the canyon beyond. "The view is so spectacular," says Dede, "I don't think we ever close the curtains!" **Left:** Classic materials—primarily walnut and marble—emphasize the gracious architecture in the master bathroom.

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If I were to use one word to describe this house, I'd say soothing. **I love being here.**

—HOMEOWNER DEDE VLIETSTRA

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festive forever

A MULTICOLORED PALETTE BRINGS **HAPPY TIMES AT CHRISTMAS** AND ALL THROUGH THE YEAR

BY KRISSA ROSSBUND
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN BESSLER
PRODUCED BY ESTELLE BOND GURALNICK

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In the foyer, an antique Chippendale chair in a festive red cotton with ivory medallions serves as a piano bench, while figurines of carolers cluster around the Christmas tree. **Opposite:** The fireplace mantel in the living room is festooned with greenery, nutcrackers, and Christmas balls. Needlepoint stockings add handcrafted whimsy, while the tree's colorful Christopher Radko glass ornaments provide more holiday charm. **Bottom right:** The entry displays classic hallmarks of the Georgian Colonial Revival style. **Preceding pages:** The foyer's antique card table is paired with a French grisaille-painted mirror. The den's crackled wallpaper pattern mimics the movement of flames.

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Everyone has a notion of what the season's palette should be. There are the traditionalists, who celebrate with jewel-toned baubles and stockings in red-and-green plaids; the sophisticates, who prefer an elegant, snow-evoking montage of ivory and beige with the occasional gold sparkle; and those in between, who opt for both color and subtlety with the cool palette of blue and silver.

Boston-based designer Anthony Catalfano and his partner, Steven Kapfhammer, enjoy variations of all three schemes at Christmastime, permitting each to dazzle with its own point of view. When they bought their Brookline, Massachusetts, home in 2004, they decided to mix palettes in a way that would not only be pleasing all year, but also especially conducive to their enthusiastic holiday decorating and entertaining.

"There's no one color that we use in our home, just as I don't decorate in one signature style," explains Anthony. "This house has a little bit of everything, but every color accepts Christmas decoration beautifully. The variety of palettes makes the house look happy all year."

Although the designer isn't generally in favor of an "anything goes" approach to color, he believes that the architecture of his home, a 1902 Georgian Colonial, warrants a color change from

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The sophisticated dining room palette is enhanced with white hydrangeas in an antique silver epergne. Created in three separate panels to keep weight at a minimum, a mirrored table covering maximizes the luminosity of the silvery decorations, the candles, and the crystal chandelier.

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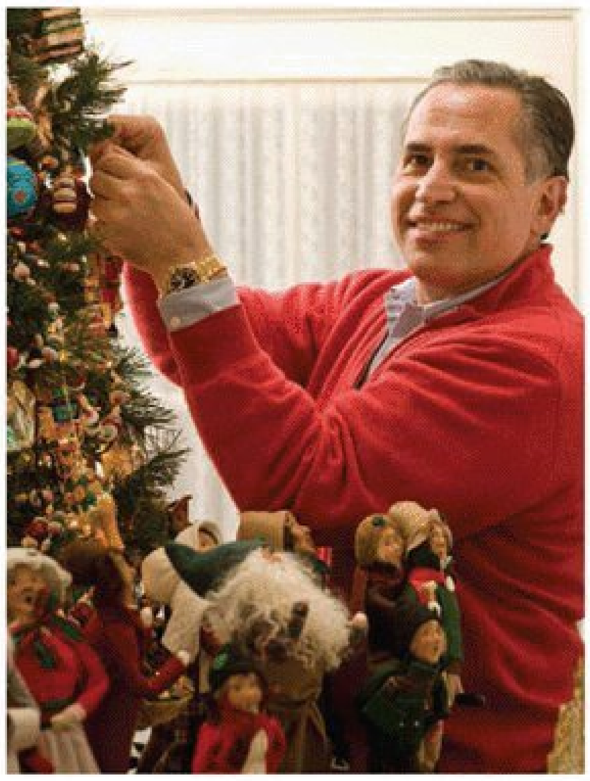
Left: The neoclassic fireplace mantel is lined with silver mint julep cups and a silver porringer, all filled with white hydrangeas. Below: Designer Anthony Catalfano makes sure that his blown-glass ornaments are hung securely on the Christmas tree in the entry hall.



room to room. Its layout boasts an expansive central stair hall with rooms independently radiating out in several directions.

Wallpapered in a geometric pattern to enhance the millwork, the neutral-toned entry plays the role of palette cleanser, much like a lemon sorbet served between courses of an elaborate meal. The hall has a rich flavor all its own, anchored with a grand piano on which Anthony plays spirited carols. During the holidays, the piano serves as a base for one of the home's Christmas trees and a collection of English caroler figurines. This decorative pairing spreads cheer at the seasonal parties that Anthony and Steven throw, sometimes hosting more than 80 people.

"Everyone has a checklist when they purchase a home, and one of our requirements was a house that could accommodate lots of people," says Anthony. "For our party, we hire a pianist, and a caterer to make goodies. Everyone has a great time."

Window treatments, sofas, and chairs in unmatched fabrics mingle in the living room as congenially as the guests. The space is warm and welcoming with a yellow strié pattern covering the walls. Here, a smaller version of the main Christmas tree sits atop a side table draped with a festive red cloth. An Asian-style garden chair is painted green and cushioned in a silk chinoiserie print on a chocolate brown background.

A red room is one of the hallmarks of design Anthony takes with him from house to house. It's also the perfect accompaniment to a profusion of Christmas accessories. In this house, Anthony assigned red to the den, where the classic mantel is bedecked with poinsettias and berry-studded topiaries.

The color scheme cools down in the dining room. Anthony had long dreamed of creating a robin's-egg blue dining room, and this well-proportioned space was the ideal place to execute his vision. Two windows lighten one wall, and a three-window bay projects at one end. Luxurious window panels in a soft blue that complements the walls descend from valances in rich silk folds.

Instead of holiday decor in bold colors, the dining room revels in quiet refinement. A three-panel mirror was created to cover the table, providing a reflective ground for glittery reindeer, silver candlesticks, a candelabra, and a crystal chandelier.

"I love color, and our Christmas decorations show that," says Anthony. "At this time of the year, anything goes. We're really into old-world design, and I never like Christmas decorations to match a room. The goal is for the house to be inviting, full of sparkle, and have our own personal touches—the perfect backdrop for making new memories with family and friends."

For more information, see sources on page 90

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BY SANDRA S. SORIA
PHOTOGRAPHY BY GORDON BEALL
PRODUCED BY SANDRA MOHLMANN

all is calm, all is light

SEASONAL DECORATING STRIKES A BALANCE BETWEEN DEFINITIVE AND DEMURE IN THIS SERENE NORTH CAROLINA HOME

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When the calendar flips to December in Charlotte, North Carolina, the forecast might read 80 degrees and sunny. But no matter. Inside Sam and Glenda Greeson's home, lush garlands, gleaming mercury glass, glints of gold, and flashes of red herald the holiday season in a quiet but definitive way.

Decorating for the seasons—all of them—comes easily in this house. Both avid gardeners, Sam and Glenda enjoy rotating fresh flowers, plantings, and other natural expressions of the time at hand. Strategically placed urns, vases, and surfaces stand ready for the changing scenes. In the entry, for instance, a terra-cotta urn's branches of winter berries will be replaced by forced apple blossoms in the early spring. A favorite bronze compote may hold glass hearts, marble eggs, or, as now, vintage mercury-glass balls.

The hushed interiors themselves make a clean stage for the revolving roster of accents. Sam, a residential architect, chose the neutral backdrop, but for season-related reasons that have little

Right: A twinkling tree hosts a collection of old and new glass ornaments. "We're at the place in life when our tree is full of memories and meaning," says Glenda Greeson. **Above:** Symmetry, structure, and a soft palette are design effects that soothe. Biedermeier pieces punctuate this strategy in the dining room and throughout the house. **Preceding pages:** Magnolia and holly are signature holiday greens of the South. Glenda at the gated entrance to her classic home.

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To underscore the symmetry of his home, Sam Greeson flanked the simple mantel that he designed himself with two slender exterior doors topped with classically inspired transoms. Where typical French doors would have been difficult to design around, this pair of openings allows the mantel to be centered on the wall.

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Not being tied to a strong color scheme allows our rooms to

to do with Christmas. "We use a lot of greens, golds, and other neutrals," he says. "In a hot climate such as Charlotte's, I feel it's better to keep things cool and light inside."

Sam designed much of the clean-lined and comfortable upholstery pieces in the couple's home—and the home itself. Completed four years ago, it was built in the Charleston Single House vernacular, a 19th-century architectural style in which houses reached to the sky from a small footprint. Typically one room wide and two deep, with the narrow side facing the street, the classic floor plan was altered by Sam into a square, making it two rooms wide as well as two rooms deep. But the couple stayed true to the design by creating a gated entrance on one side of the house that leads to a loggia, or covered side porch. The main entry to the house is centered on the side, within the loggia.

Though the small, narrow wooded lot dictated the verticality of the house, it also fulfilled a design wish list for the two. "We have always loved Charleston and the intimacy of a courtyard

Mirror-image boxwood wreaths hang back to back on the inside and outside of the tall, slender windows in a nod to Southern tradition. Elsewhere in the formal living room, natural touches and vintage mercury glass stand out against clean backdrops and soft colors. **Above:** This charming home is a variation of the Charleston Single House style, evidenced by its verticality and telltale gated side entrance, which opens to a loggia and the real "front" door.

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house," says Sam. "It creates a kind of seclusion. We've long admired, and really desired, that style of home. When the lot we wanted dictated this style, the time had come." As a practical matter, he adds with a laugh, "The gated front entrance cuts down on solicitors, because we can trigger the gate to open electronically—or not—depending on who we see there."

The house stacks to a full four stories, starting with a basement and garage accessed at the rear of the home. The main level hosts the public spaces. Above that are the master suite and guest rooms. Finally, at the home's lofty peak, are a study and library. To ensure that their residence lives as agelessly as it looks, the Greesons installed a small elevator that runs from garage to attic. "It's used mostly for cargo at this point," reports Sam. "But occasionally I'll hop in."

With ceilings that reach to 10½ feet, verticality plays a design role inside the house as well. "I like the effect of a tall vertical," says Sam. "It creates drama without losing intimacy." Tall double-hung windows enhance that effect and, equally important, scoop in maximum light from the surrounding woods. Drapery rods mounted close to the ceiling literally heighten the drama.

The couple's collection of Biedermeier furniture punctuates many rooms, lending its amber hues to the pale aquas and tawny shades downstairs and to the mellow golds and sparkling champagne fabrics in the upstairs master bedroom. "Architects tend to like Biedermeier design," says Sam, "and the American Federal style, because they have an architectural base. The clean structures and light wood also mix well with the contemporary aspects of our upholstery."

Pattern is used judiciously so as not to jar the serenity of the tone-on-tone palette. But this design strategy also serves another purpose. The limited patterns, like the chosen holiday touches, then become standouts. In the master bedroom, a velvet brocade fabric is framed like fine art by the fluted and gilded frame of a fauteuil.

The intimate scale and soft interiors of the Greeson home are well-suited to the holidays as well as to the couple's day-to-day lifestyle. Small definitely has its advantages. "Like most people, we entertain on a much smaller scale," says Glenda, "which I think is much more satisfying because you actually are able to visit with your guests. I think the days of the large, elaborate parties are winding down."

For more information, see sources on page 90

Above: Moldings in the master bedroom are downsized in proportion to the smaller scale of the bedrooms. A hushed palette keeps things clean and serene here; a mix of textures and carefully chosen pops of pattern add a bit of eye candy. **Opposite, top left:** Ebonized wood floors in a Versailles parquet pattern ground the formal entry, where fresh greens and silver glints announce the holidays. **Top right:** Gift trim complements the decor. **Bottom left:** Glittering ornaments. **Bottom right:** An elegant mirrored vanity in a small bath visually enlarges the limited space.

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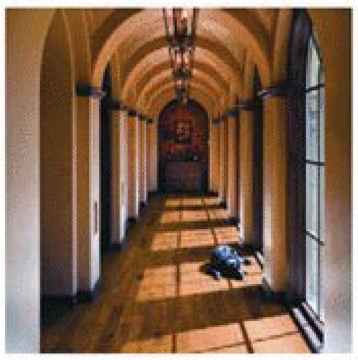

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Kitchen designer: Kim Nielsen, Blue Coast Design Group, 1332 Avalon Place, Atlanta, GA 30306; 404/428-7524, bluecoastdesigngroup.com. **Design/Build:** Highland Design Team, 1332 Avalon Place, Atlanta, GA 30306; 404/483-0181, highlanddesignteam.com. **Cabinet maker:** Cabinet Design, LLC, 2725 Faith Industrial Dr., Buford, GA 30518; 678/546-9923.

Pages 28—32. Kitchen—**Hood** (custom): Francois & Co., 888/313-3237, francoisandcompany.com. **Cabinetry** (custom, maple); **insert and bead cabinet stain** (custom): Cabinet Design, LLC, 678/546-9923. **White cabinet color** ("Moderate White" #AW6140): Sherwin-Williams, 800/474-3794, sherwinwilliams.com. **Appliance pulls; cabinetry hardware** (Tuscany Collection): Top Knobs USA, 800/499-9095, topknobsusa.com. **Countertops** ("Calacatta Gold"): G&L Marble, 404/261-7444, glmarble.com. **Floors:** Oak Hardwoods in English Chestnut stain. **Refrigerator:** Sub-Zero Inc., 800/222-7820, subzero.com. **Range** (48-inch range with 6 burners and griddle #R486G): Wolf Appliance Inc., 800/332-9513, wolfappliance.com. **Pot filler faucet** ("Swing Arm Pot Filler"/Polished Nickel #A1451XM/PN, Country Kitchen Collection): Rohl, 800/777-9762, rohlhome.com. **Dishwasher drawers:** Fisher & Paykel Appliances Inc., 800/863-5384, fisherpaykel.com. **Dishwasher**: Bosch, 800/866-2022, bosch-home.com. **Stainless steel microwave drawer** (#KB-6024MS): Sharp Electronics Corp., 800/237-4277, sharpusa.com. **Island sink** ("Undermount Single Bowl Sink," 16 gauge, zero radius, #SC3219): Schon, 866/376-9851, schonkitchensinks.com. **Island main faucet** ("Waterhill" #S713): Showhouse by Moen, 800/289-6636, showhouse.moen.com. **Lighting** over island ("Cage Chandelier with 4 Lights"/Stonehedge finish #GE 5204SE, Genova Collection): Quoizel Lighting, 631/273-2700, quoizel.com. **Stools** (custom, "Dual-Seat Counter Bench" #7000-53): Lee Industries, 800/892-7150, leeindustries.com. **Slipcover** on stools: Sunbrella, 336/221-2211, sunbrella.com. **Trees** on countertop: owner's collection. **Prep sink** in butler's pantry: Home Depot, homedepot.com. **Prep-sink faucet** in butler's pantry ("The Little Gourmet Instant Hot Water Dispenser" #MT1100DIY/PN): Mountain Plumbing, 888/222-9140, mountainplumbing.com. **Wall paint:** custom. **Ceiling and trim paint** ("Moderate White" #SW6140): Sherwin-Williams, 800/474-3794, sherwinwilliams.com.

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SET DESIGN: THE DESIGNING DIRECTOR

Writer-director: Nancy Meyers. **Set decorator:** Beth Rubino.

Pages 34—37. Living room—**Matching chairs:** George Smith, 212/226-4747, georgesmith.com, trade only. **Fabric** (linen): Calvin Fabrics, 888/732-1996, henrycalvin.com, trade only. **Sofa:** custom. **Upholstered chair with blue pillow:** Wisteria, 800/320-9757, wisteria.com. **End tables:** Treillage Ltd., 212/535-2288, treillageonline.com. **Orange chair:** 1st Dibs, 1stdibs.com, trade only. **Coffee table:** Lucca Antiques, 310/657-7800, luccaantiques.com. **Large basket; accessories:** Dessin Fournir, 785/434-2777, trade only. **Antiques:** Berkshire Home & Antiques, 413/644-9262, berkshireantiques.com. **Additional fabric suppliers:** Victoria Hagan Home, 212/888-3241, victoriahaganhome.com, trade only; and Holland & Sherry, 212/355-6241, hollandandsherry.com, trade only. Kitchen—**Fabric:** Rogers & Goffigon, 203/532-8068, trade only. **Pendant lights:** John Rosselli & Assoc., 212/593-2060, johnrosselliassociates.com, trade only. **White dishes:** Astier de Villatte, astierdevillatte.com. Available through ABC Carpet & Home, 212/473-3000, abchome.com. **Dining table:** Berkshire Home & Antiques, 413/644-9262, berkshireantiques.com. **Chairs:** custom. Master bedroom—**Headboard:** custom. **Bedding:** Frette, 800/353-7388, frette.com. **Bedding:** Sferra, 877/336-2003, sferralinens.com. **Throw:** antique.

Pages 38—43

ON THE TABLE: TAKING THE TIME

Designers: Catherine Bailly Dunne and Tanis McGregor, Door Couture, 9800 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 100, Beverly Hills, CA 90212; 310/777-8787, doorcouture.com.

Pages 53—63

SING NOËL

Architect: Jack Arnold, 7310 S.Yale, Tulsa, OK 74136; 800/824-3565, jackarnold.com. **Interior designer, contractor:** Cindy Rinfret, Rinfret Ltd., 203/622-0000, and Rinfret Home & Garden, 354 Greenwich Ave., Greenwich, CT 06830, 203/622-0204, rinfretltd.com.

Page 53. Main entry—**Door** (custom, white French oak with antique, lightly distressed glass): Rinfret Ltd., 203/622-0000, rinfretltd.com. **Hardware:** Rocky Mountain Hardware, 888/788-2013, rockymountainhardware.com.

Pages 54—55. Library—**Houndstooth wall covering** ("Maiake Weave"/Camel): Schumacher, fschumacher.com, trade only. **Mantel**: Architectural Accents, 404/266-8700. **Paneling** (designed by Cindy Rinfret): Rinfret Ltd., 203/622-0000, rinfretltd.com. **Fire screen** (custom): Post Road Iron Works, 203/869-6322. **Fire rail**: antique. **Bookcases**; **sofa** (custom); **upholstered chairs** by mantel (custom by Althorp Collection): Rinfret Ltd., 203/622-0000, rinfretltd.com. **Pillow on upholstered chairs** ("Hakone"/Tobacco #34026-04): Clarence House, 800/803-2850, clarencehouse.com, trade only. **Sofa fabric** ("Easy" #44700): Nobilis Inc., 800/464-6670, trade only. **Sofa pillows** (from Thailand): antique. **Striped club chair**: Lee Industries, 800/892-7150, leeindustires.com. **Striped club-chair fabric:** discontinued. **Greek-key pillow; coffee table:** Rinfret Home & Garden, 203/622-0204. **Mirror; fauteuils** (antique); **Zebra-style rug; accessories:** owner's collection. **Carriage ligh**t: McLean Lighting Works, mcleanlighting.com, trade only. Available through The Saltbox, 336/273-8758, thesaltboxonline.com. Master hall—**Urns**: Rinfret Home & Garden, 203/622-0204. **Carriage light** ("Liechester"): McLean Lighting Works, mcleanlighting.com, trade only. Available through The Saltbox, 336/273-8758, thesaltboxonline.com. **Paint** ("Matchstick" #2013): Farrow & Ball, 888/511-1121, farrow-ball.com.

Pages 56—57. Living room toward sofa—**Sofa** (custom); **club chairs** (custom): Rinfret Ltd., 203/622-0000, rinfretltd.com. **Sofa fabric** ("Barra"/Caramel #J356F-14 by Jane Churchill); **club-chair fabric** ("Blanford Check"/Sand #F3003-03 by Colefax & Fowler): Cowtan & Tout, 212/647-6900, cowtan.com, trade only. **Coffee table** (from Bangkok); **end tables** flanking sofa; **art** behind sofa; **bench** (antique); **pedestals** for plants: owner's collection. **Lamps** on end tables: Rinfret Home & Garden, 203/622-0204. **Leopard fabric** on bench (#27254-616): Kravet, 888/457-2838, kravet.com, trade only. **Sconces** ("Deer Head Sconce" #52-0005): Chelsea House, 704/867-5926, trade only. **Rug** (Diamond Sisal): A.T. Proudian, 914/632-4848. **Chandelier:** Currey & Co., 877/768-6428, curreycodealers.com, trade only. Living room toward tree—**Chair**; coffee table: owner's collection. **Chair fabric** ("Aegean Texture"/Tan, Off White #HW0881KB): Hinson & Co., 212/688-5538, trade only. **Drapery** (by Nina Campbell): discontinued. **Paint** ("Matchstick" #2013): Farrow & Ball, 888/511-1121.

Pages 58—59. Family room—**Mantel; surround:** Materials Marketing, 800/368-3901, mstoneandtile.com. **Mirror** over mantel (antique): The Antique & Artisan Center, 203/327-6022, stamfordantiques.com. **Caned chairs:** Rinfret Home & Garden, 203/622-0204. **Chair fabric** (Ultrasuede): Knoll Textiles, 866/565-5858, knolltextiles.com. **Sofa**: Rinfret Ltd., 203/622-0000, rinfretltd.com. **Sofa fabric** ("Epernay Linen Velvet"/Rattan #89292-064): Brunschwig & Fils, 800/538-1880, brunschwig.com, trade only. **Ottoman:** owner's collection. **Bird cage:** Lexington Gardens, 203/426-7903. **Mirror** over mantel (antique): Rinfret Home & Garden, 203/622-0204. **Chandelier**: Dennis & Leen, 310/652-0855, trade only. **Paint** ("Matchstick" #2013): Farrow & Ball, 888/511-1121. **Mantel, overmantel, and trumeau:** Materials Marketing, 800/368-3901. **Vase** on mantel: Rinfret Home & Garden, 203/622-0204. **Flooring** (from France): Rinfret Ltd., 203/622-0000. **Area rug** (custom): A.T. Proudian, 914/632-4848, atproudian.com. **Pillows:** owner's collection. Kitchen—**Stools:** Bausman & Co., 310/659-9459, bausman.net. **Carriage lights:** Dennis & Leen, 310/652-0855, trade only. **Oven hood** (custom); **island faucet** (custom); **island counter** (custom); **flooring** (imported limestone from France); **armoire** (custom, refrigerator): Rinfret Ltd., 203/622-0000.

Pages 60—61. Outdoor living room—**Mantel; coffee table:** owner's collection. **Hanging lantern; étagère; sconces; lanterns** on coffee table: Rinfret Home & Garden, 203/622-0204. **Sofa and chairs** ("All Weather Wicker Roll-Back Sunbrella Cushion Collection"): Restoration Hardware, 800/910-9836, restorationhardware.com. **Faux bois chair** ("Arbor Chair" #2701): Currey & Co., 877/768-6428, curreycodealers.com, trade only. **Trumeau** (custom, antique French window guard from a garden show at The New York Botanical Gardens,): owner's collection. **Flooring** (antique terra-cotta and limestone imported from France): Rinfret Ltd., 203/622-0000. **Paint:** stucco. Exterior with urn—**Urn** (from Aidan Gray): Rinfret Home & Garden, 203/622-0204. **Mirror** (antique): The Antique & Artisan Center, 203/327-6022, stamfordantiques.com.

Pages 62—63. Dining room—**Carriage light** (antique); **buffet** (antique): Rinfret Ltd., 203/622-0000, rinfretltd.com. **Candle-drop lights:** Vaughan Designs, 212/319-7070, vaughandesigns.com, trade only. **Table**: The Provence Collection, 305/740-4448, theprovencecollection.com. **Chairs** ("Claire Side Chair"): Oly, 775/336-2100, olystudio.com, trade only. **Rug** (custom): J.D. Staron, 203/351-1130, jdstaron.com, trade only. **Wall fabric** ("Oak Leaves Vine"/Green #2012/02): Chelsea Editions, 212/758-0005, chelseaeditions.com, trade only. **Art** over buffet: owner's collection.

Pages 64—71

SPECTACULARLY SIMPLE

Architect: Thomas Proctor, Thomas Proctor Architects, 8650 Holloway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90069;

www.journal-plaza.net & www.freedowns.net

310/659-2125. **Interior designer:** Catherine Bailly Dunne, ASID, Catherine Bailly Dunne Interior Design Inc., 16738 Bollinger Dr., Pacific Palisades, CA 90272; 310/454-4047, catherinedunne.com. **Art consultant:** Sarah Gardner Art & Design, 310/476-5377. **Drapery fabrication:** Douglas Wright Drapery, 323/788-3259.

Pages 64—67. Foyer—**Console** (Italian Neo-Classic): Thomas W. Morgan Inc., 323/930-6777. **Paint** ("Off-White" #3): Farrow & Ball, 888/511-1121, farrow-ball.com. Living room—**Armchair** by tree ("Charles X Armchair"): Thomas W. Morgan Inc. 323/930-6777. **Chair fabric** ("Torino"/French Blue #770024): Yoma Textiles, 212/431-4794, yoma.com, trade only. **Sofas** (Tuxedo" #3118): Nancy Corzine, 212/223-8340, nancycorzine.com, trade only. **Sofa fabric** ("Savanna"/Olive #9001433): Yoma Textiles, 212/431-4794, trade only. **Coffee table** ("Chambord" #DL-TB05); **pair of chairs** by sofa ("Montalembert" #DL-CH50): Dennis & Leen, 310/652-0855, dennisandleen.com, trade only. **Chair fabric** ("Gobi"/Sea Foam #3132-26): Jim Thompson, 800/262-0336. jimthompson.com, trade only. **Chair leather** ("Cabiria"/Bahama Blue #5000/20): Rose Tarlow-Melrose House, 323/651-2202, rosetarlow.com, trade only. **Table** between chairs ("Moderne Gilded Iron Cigar Table"): Richard Shapiro StudioLo, 310/275-6700, rshapiroantiques.com. **Drapery** ("Bolero"/Lagoon #2527-03, by Larsen): Cowtan & Tout, 212/647-6900, trade only. **Paint:** custom. **Floor lamps:** Holly Hunt, 312/661-1900, trade only. **Rug** (antique): Aga John Oriental Rugs, 310/657-0890, agajohncarpets.com, trade only. **Sofa table; mantel:** owner's collection. **Art** over mantel: through Sarah Gardner Art & Design, 310/476-5377. **Fire screen:** Thomas Lavin Inc., 310/278-2456, trade only.

Pages 68—69. Dining room—**Paint** ("Light Blue" #22): Farrow & Ball, 888/511-1121. **Table:** owner's collection. **Chairs** ("Loire Side Chairs"): Thomas W. Morgan Inc., 323/930-6777. **Chair-seat fabric** ("Persueded"/Island Blue #7000-14): Holly Hunt, 312/661-1900, hollyhunt.com, trade only. **Seat-back fabric** ("Bali," discontinued): Bergamo Fabrics, 914/665-0800, trade only. **Chandelier:** La Murrina Murano, 310/858-7080, lamurrina.us. **Drapery** ("Palmyre" Aqua #4562-05, by Manuel Canovas): Cowtan & Tout, 212/647-6900, trade only. **Art**: through Sarah Gardner Art & Design, 310/476-5377. **Console:** Richard Shapiro StudioLo, 310/275-6700. **Rug:** Aga John Oriental Rugs, 310/657-0890, trade only. **Dinnerware** ("Mythologie"): L'Objet, l-objet.com, trade only. Available through Neiman Marcus, neimanmarcus.com. **Flatware; glassware; table linens; accessories:** owner's collection. Kitchen—**Paint** ("Brilliant White"): Benjamin Moore & Co., 888/236-6667. **Roman shade**: Cowtan & Tout, 212/647-6900, trade only. Pool area—**Lounge chair** ("Concord"); **table:** Murray's Iron Works, 310/289-3587, murraysiw.com. **Chair fabric** ("Row Stripe"/Moss, Pistachio): Perennials, 214/638-4162, perennialsfabrics.com, trade only.

Pages 70—71. Master bedroom—**Paint** ("Jicama" #AF-315): Aura by Benjamin Moore, 888/236-6667, myaura.com. **Bed:** Patina Inc., patinainc.com, trade only. **Bedside cabinets:** Rose Tarlow-Melrose House, 323/651-2202, rosetarlow.com, trade only. ("Fontenay" #DL-CB11): Dennis & Leen, 310/652-0855, dennisandleen.com, trade only. **Lamps**: custom. **Roman-shade fabric:** Cowtan & Tout, 212/647-6900, trade only. **Settee; chest** in front of settee: owner's collection. **Settee fabric; club chairs; chair fabric:** Brunschwig & Fils, 800/538-1880, trade only. **Chest** by door ("Fontenay Cabinet" #DL-CB11): Dennis & Leen, 310/652-0855, trade only. Master bathroom—**Pendant light; chairs:** owner's collection. **Slipper-chair fabric:** Cowtan & Tout, 212/647-6900, trade only.

Pages 72—77
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Interior designer: Anthony Catalfano, Anthony ➤

Photo by D. James Dee

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Catalfano Interiors, 160 Commonwealth Ave., #19, Boston, MA 02116-2758; 617/536-3776, anthony-catalfanointeriors.com. .
Pages 72—73. Foyer—**Wall covering** ("Natchez"/White, Gray, Beige #2412W-8): Carleton V, 212/355-4525, trade only. **Georgian card table**; **mirror** (antique, French grisailles-painted mirror); **silver-leaf vase; Export China plates:** owner's collection. Den—**Wall covering** ("Crackle"/Red #2110W-1): Carleton V, 212/355-4525, trade only. **Wing chair**: owner's collection. **Wing-chair fabric** ("Chinese Chippendale"/Red, Multi #DQ84131695): Ol d World Weavers, 2 12/355-7186, trade only. **Wing-chair trim** ("Penelope Moss Fringe"/Beige, Old Rose #39041-MO1): Brunschwig & Fils, 800/538-1880, brunschwig.com, trade only. **Tole pagoda lantern** (#0597): John Rosselli & Assoc. Ltd., 212/593-2060, johnrosselliassociates.com, trade only. **Sconces**: George N Antiques, 212/935-4005, georgenantiques.com. **Upholstered sofa** (custom): Anthony Catalfano Interiors, 617/536-3776. **Rug** (antique): Steven King Inc., 617/426-3302, trade only. **Book cabinets**; **majolica window box** on mantel; **leather ottoman cabinets** flanking fireplace: owner's collection. **Ceiling and trim paint** ("Ivory White"#9 25): Benjamin Moore & Co., 888/236-6667. **Andirons and rail:** Adams Fireplace Shop, 617/547-3100. **Mantel:** original to house. **Art** over mantel (antique, Dutch); **painting** of horses: owner's collection.
Pages 74—75. Foyer—**Wall covering** ("Natchez"/White, Gray, Beige #2412W-8): Carleton V, 212/355-4525, trade only. **Piano; chair** (antique, Chippendale); **lamp** on piano (created from antique English porcelain); **tree ornaments** (collection of Christopher Radko blown glass ornaments): owner's collection. **Chair fabric** ("Erevan"/Rouge #F2592-003): Pierre Frey, 212/213-3099, pierrefrey.com, trade only. **Chair trim** (#982-30702-409): Samuel & Sons, 212/704-8000, trade only. **Paint** on walls under stair rail ("Ivory White" #925): Benjamin Moore & Co., 888/236-6667, benjaminmoore.com. **Flooring:** white oak with dark walnut stain. Living room—**Camelback sofa** (antique): owner's collection. **Sofa fabric** ("Peking"/Sea Spray #8326-18, by Larsen); **drapery** ("Lindley"/Pink, Green #F3102-03 by Colefax & Fowler): Cowtan & Tout, 212/647-6900, cowtan.com, trade only. **Drapery rod** ("2-inch Classic Rod" #27026BN); **finial** ("Swirl Finial 2-inch Series" #27003BN): Ralph Lauren Home, 888/475-7674, ralphlaurenhome.com. **Rolled-back sofa** (custom). Anthony Catalfano Interiors, 617/536-3776. **Striped sofa fabric** (discontinued): Pierre Frey, 212/213-3099, pierrefrey.com, trade only. **Sofa trim** ("Applaude Small Braid"/Blue, Yellow and Gold #30430-M23): Brunschwig & Fils, 800/538-1880, brunschwig.com, trade only. **Sconces** (antique); **round end table** by camelback sofa (antique); **table lamp** (from antique porcelain jar); **end table** by striped sofa; **rose medallion bowl** on end table; **antique bird prints:** owner's collection. **Shades** for sconces (custom)**:** Blanche P. Field, LLC, 617/423-0715, trade only. **Chinoiseries coffee table** (Faux Bamboo/Red): Agostina Antiques, 212/421-8820, trade only. **Armchair** by tree (custom, reproduction Chinese garden chair): Antiques on Nine, LLC, 207/967-0626, trade only. **Upholstered wing chair** by mantel; **stool** by wing chair: owner's collection. **Mantel:** original to house. **Andirons:** Adams Fireplace Shop, 617/547-3100. **Brown floral chair** opposite mantel: owner's collection. **Chair fabric:** Cowtan & Tout, 212/647-6900, trade only. **Geometric pillow** on camelback sofa: Clarence House, 800/803-2850, clarencehouse.com, trade only. **Small rectangular gold pillows** on camelback sofa: owner's collection. **Pillows** on striped sofa: Brunschwig & Fils, 800/538-1880, trade only, with custom hand beading. **Wall paint:** custom. **Ceiling and trim paint** ("Ivory White" #925): Benjamin Moore & Co., 888/236-6667. Exterior—**Paint** ("Hawthorne Yellow" #HC-4): Benjamin Moore & Co., 888/236-6667. **Cast iron urns:** owner's collection.
Pages 76—77. Dining room—**Dining table with mirrored top** (custom design): Anthony Catalfano Interiors, 617/536-3776. **Dining chair fabric** (#9987 in Athos Mist): Pindler & Pindler Inc., 805/531-9090, pindler.com, trade only. **Gimp** ("Half-Inch Annecy Gimp"/Celadon, Mint #982-30732-168): Samuel & Sons, 212/704-8000, trade only. **Drapery** ("Taffeta Soie"/Ciel #33979-21): Clarence House Inc., 800/803-2850, clarencehouse.com, trade only. **Drapery cording** ("Gran Canale Cable with Tape"/Aqua and Cream, 12mm #90548.05/4); **drapery crete trim** ("Gran Canale Crete"/Aqua and Cream #90533.05/4): Brunschwig & Fils, 800/538-1880, brunschwig.com, trade only. **Sideboard** (antique): R. Jorgensen Antiques, 207/646-9444, rjorgensen.com. **Area rug** (antique): original to house. **Dining chairs** (family heirlooms); **chandelier** (antique); **gilt Adams mirror** (antique); **sconces** (antique); **mahogany plant stand** (antique); **silver chest (**antique) on custom stand; **silver epergne** (antique); **Georgian silver candlesticks; silver mint julep cups** (antique); **silver deer and moose:** owner's collection. **Wall paint:** custom. **Ceiling and trim paint** ("Ivory White" #925): Benjamin Moore & Co., 888/236-6667, benjainmoore.com. **Hurricanes** on sideboard: Shreve, Crump & Low, 800/225-7088, shrevecrumpandlow.com.

Pages 78—87
ALL IS CALM, ALL IS LIGHT

Architect, interior designer: Sam Greeson, AIA, Meyer, Greeson Paullin Benson Architecture/Interior Design, 320 S. Tryon St., Suite 222, Charlotte, NC 28202; 704/375-1001, mgpba.com. **Builder:** Simonini Builders Inc., 1910 South Blvd., #200, Charlotte, NC 28203; 704/358-9940. **Landscape design:** G&G Landscaping, Charlotte, NC ; 704/724-7269.
Pages 78—79. Exterior—**Front door** (custom): Harvell's Woodworking Co., 336/275-3301. **Gas lantern:** Urban Electric Co., 843/723-8140, urbanelectricco.com, trade only. **Wreaths; greenery:** Campbell's Greenhouses, 704/331-9659.
Pages 81—83. Family room toward kitchen—**Table** (antique): Darnell & Co., 704/376-6497, trade only. **Chandelier; Christmas tree ornaments; art** by tree: owner's collection. **Rug** (seagrass); Stark Carpet Corp., 212/752-9000, starkcarpet.com, trade only. **Wall paint** ("Truly Taupe" #SW6038): Duron Paints & Wallcoverings, 800/723-8766, duron.com. Kitchen—**Island** (antique, French store counter). **Painting** on island: Terry Reitzel, 828/441-0050. **Cabinets** (designed by Sam Greeson): fabricated by Mint Hill Cabinet Shop, 704/821-9373. **Countertops:** Calcutta marble. **Ovens:** Thermador, 800/656-9226, thermador.com. **Range:** Jenn-Air, 800/536-6247 jennair.com. **Prints** on counter (antique botanicals); **accessories:** owner's collection. **Cake plates:** Crate & Barrel, 800/996-9960, crateandbarrel.com. Family room toward chest—**Chest** (antique, Biedermeier); **painting; sconces** (Italian, wood, painted and gilded); **sconce shades** (Fortuny, from Italy); **candlesticks** (Italian, gilt); **upholstered chairs** (vintage, Italian): owner's collection. **Compote and platter** (reproduction creamware): Two's Company, 800/896-7266, twoscompany.com, trade only. **Door color** ("Black Magic" #SW6991): Sherwin-Williams, 800/474-3794, sherwinwilliams.com. Family room toward mantel—**Mantel** (designed by Sam Greeson): Meyer Greeson Paullin Benson Architecture/Interior Design, 704/375-1001. **Sofa:** Heirloom Furniture, 828/328-1851, heirloomfurniture.com, trade only. **Sofa fabric:** ("Valencia Woven"/Antracita #82281-967, by Gaston Y Daniela): Brunschwig & Fils, 800/538-1880, brunschwig.com, trade only. **Upholstered fauteuil:** Smith Grubbs & Assoc., 404/239-9206, smithgrubbs.com, trade only. **Armless chairs** Heirloom Furniture, 828/328-1851, heirloomfurniture.com, trade only. **Chair fabric**: Stroheim & Romann, 718/706-7000, stroheim.com, trade only. **Pillows** on armless chairs; **drum cocktail table** (custom); **white lacquer side table** (custom); **alabaster lamp; plaster lamp; accent table** (antique); **painting** over mantel (family collection): owner's collection.
Pages 84—85. Living room toward mantel—**Floors** (random width oak planks): Old Savannah Flooring Co., 866/292-9914. **Windows** (custom, leaded window): Harvell's Woodworking Co., 336/275-3301. **Drapery** (silk): Brunschwig & Fils, 800/538-1880, brunschwig.com, trade only. **Rug** (silk and wool): Stark Carpet Corp., 212/752-9000, starkcarpet.com, trade only. **Mantel and surround** (designed by Sam Greeson); **club chairs** (custom designed by Sam Greeson); **sconces** (custom designed by Sam Greeson): Meyer Greeson Paullin Benson, 704/375-1001. **Club-chair fabric** (cotton stripe): Hinson & Co., 212/688-5538, trade only. **Mirror:** Mirror Fair, 212/288-5050. **Andirons:** By-Gone Days Antiques, 704/527-8717. **Hearth rail** (bronze): Churchill Galleries, 704/333-7020. **Fire screen** (antique); **Mercury glass collection** on mantel: owner's collection. **Settee** (vintage): Churchill Galleries, 704/333-7020. **Settee fabric** ("Sebastian Velvet"/Olive #89361-458): Brunschwig & Fils, 800/538-1880, brunschwig.com, trade only. **Console** (antique): owner's collection. **Print** over console (by Tim Ford): Somerhill Gallery, 919/688-8868, somerhill.com. **Coffee table:** Global Views, 888/956-0030, globalviews.com, trade only. Available through Meyer Greeson Paullin Benson, 704/375-1001. **Glass cachepots:** The Pink Door, 336/373-9398. **Boxwood wreaths: C**ampbell's Greenhouses, 704/331-9659. **Paint:** custom.
Pages 86—87. Entry hall—**Flooring** (hand-scraped Versailles parquet): Olde Savannah Flooring Co., 866/292-9914, oldesavannahflooring.com. **Stair carpet** ("Centaur"/Beige): Stark Carpet Corp., 212/752-9000, starkcarpet.com, trade only. **Walls and trim paint** ("Paperwhite" #SW7105): Duron Paints & Wallcoverings, 800/723-8766, duron.com. **Chandelier** (antique, bronze with hand-painted paper shades); **table** (antique, Bedermeier); **art** (*Peonies*, by Jo Rankin); **silver candlesticks; bronze compote; clay jardinière; pedestal:** owner's collection. Powder room—**Mirrored vanity:** Horchow Collection, 877/944-9888, horchow.com. **Faucet** (818 Series): Majestic Bath by Jado, 800/227-2734, jadousa.com. **Mirror:** Churchill Galleries 704/333-7020. **Crystal sconces:** The Big Chandelier, 404/872-3332, thebigchandelier.com. Master bedroom—**Wall paint** ("Relaxed Khaki" #SW6149): Duron Paints & Wallcoverings, 800/723-8766, duron.com. **Carpet** ("Savon"/Sea oats #5240): Glen Eden, 800/843-1728, glen-eden.com. **Bed** (designed by Sam Greeson): Meyer Greeson Paullin Benson, 704/375-1001. **Sheets, pillowcases and bed cover** (Legacy Home); **silk quilt** ("Du Barry"): Neiman Marcus Catalog, 888/888-4757, neimanmarcus.com. **Drapery**: Brunschwig & Fils, 800/538-1880, brunschwig.com, trade only. **Drapery fabrication:** Connie Knowles, 704/376-1701. **Painting** over bed (by Barbara Gilmore); **demilune table** (Italian reproduction); **upholstered armchair** by table; **floor lamp:** owner's collection. **Table skirt** (silk taffeta): Calvin, 888/732-1996, henrycalvin.com, trade only. **Large painting** over demilune (by Matt Overend): If Art Gallery, 803/255-0068. **Smaller painting** over demilune (by Robert Brown): Blowing Rock Framework & Gallery, 828/295-0041, blowingrockgalleries.com. **Gilded armchair** (vintage): Period Antiques, 843/723-2724. **Chair fabric** ("Saraceno"/Linen #F1109/5, by Designers Guild): Osborne & Little, 877/322-7420, osborneandlittle.com, trade only. **Art by gilded chair:** owner's collection.

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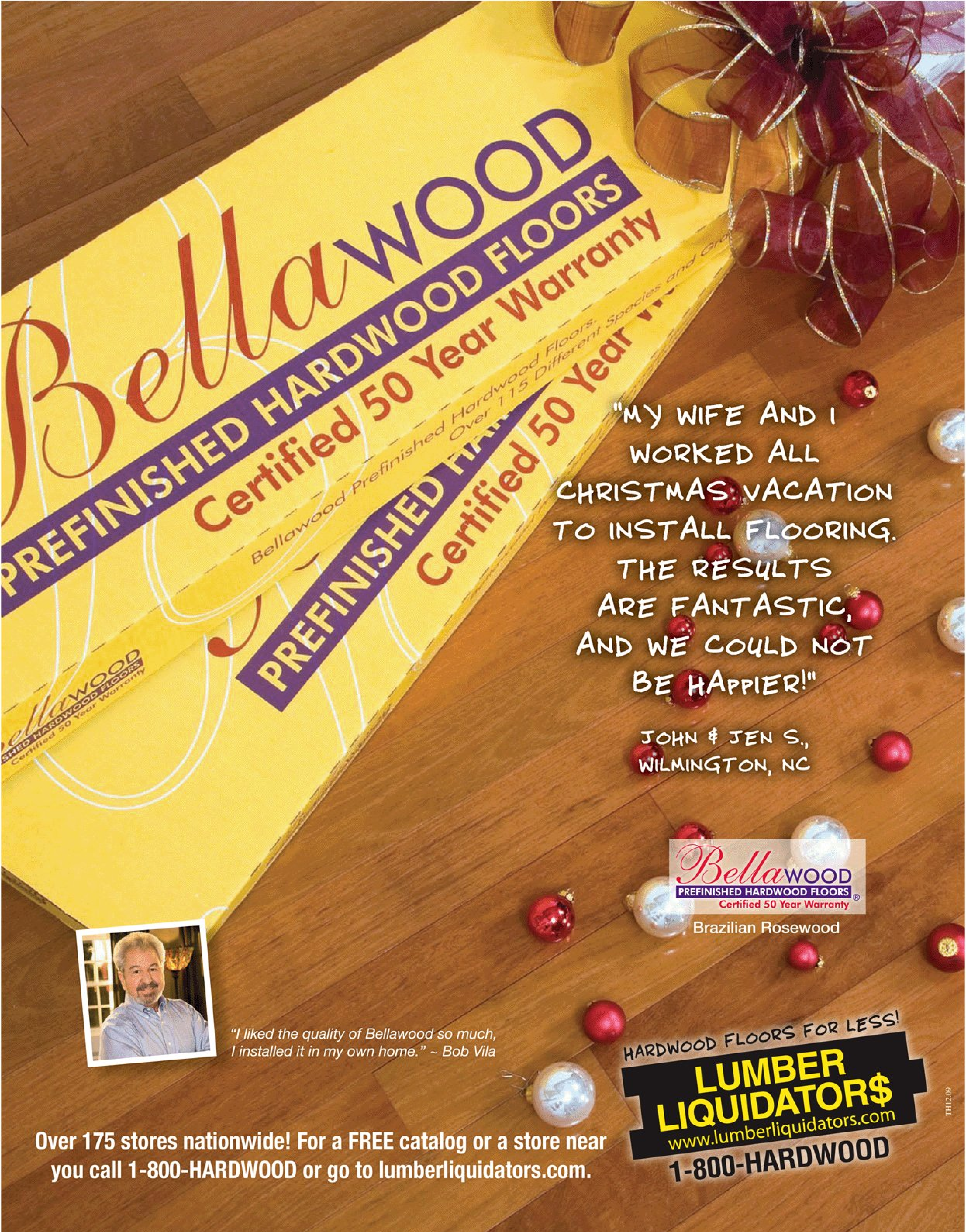

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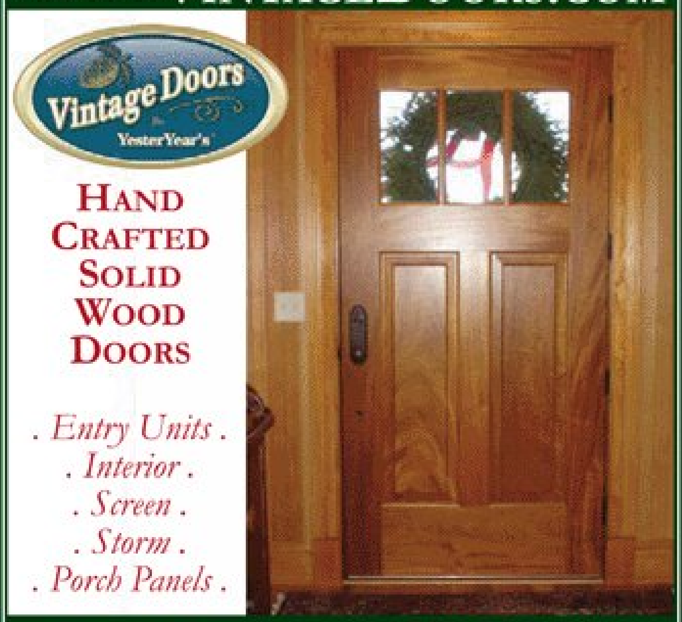

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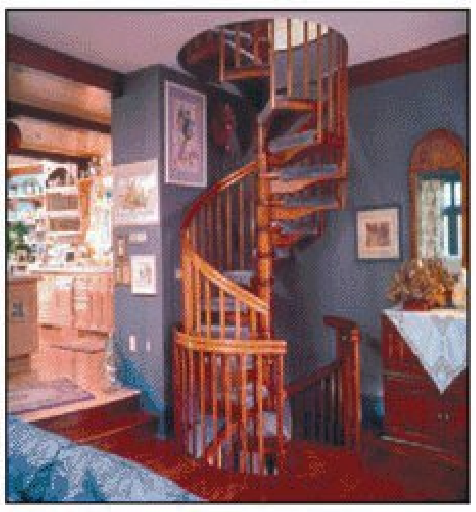

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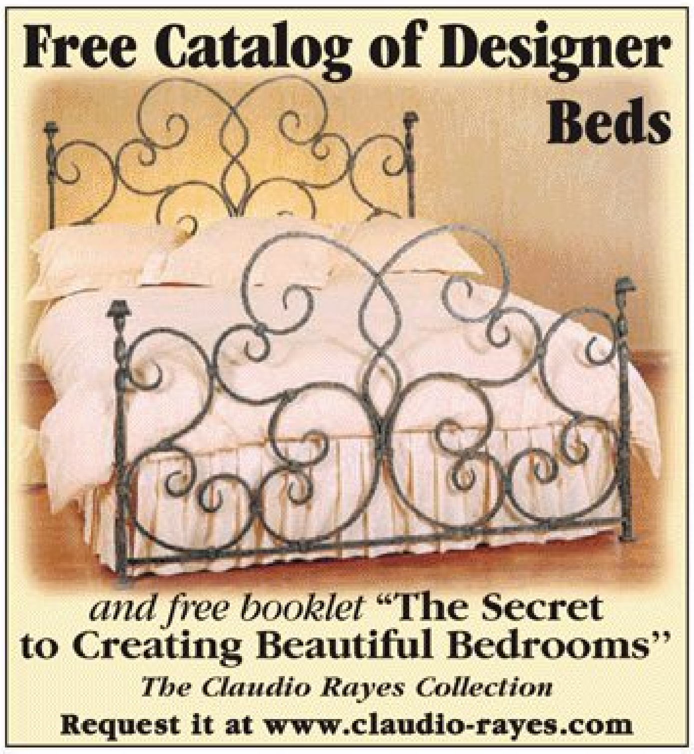

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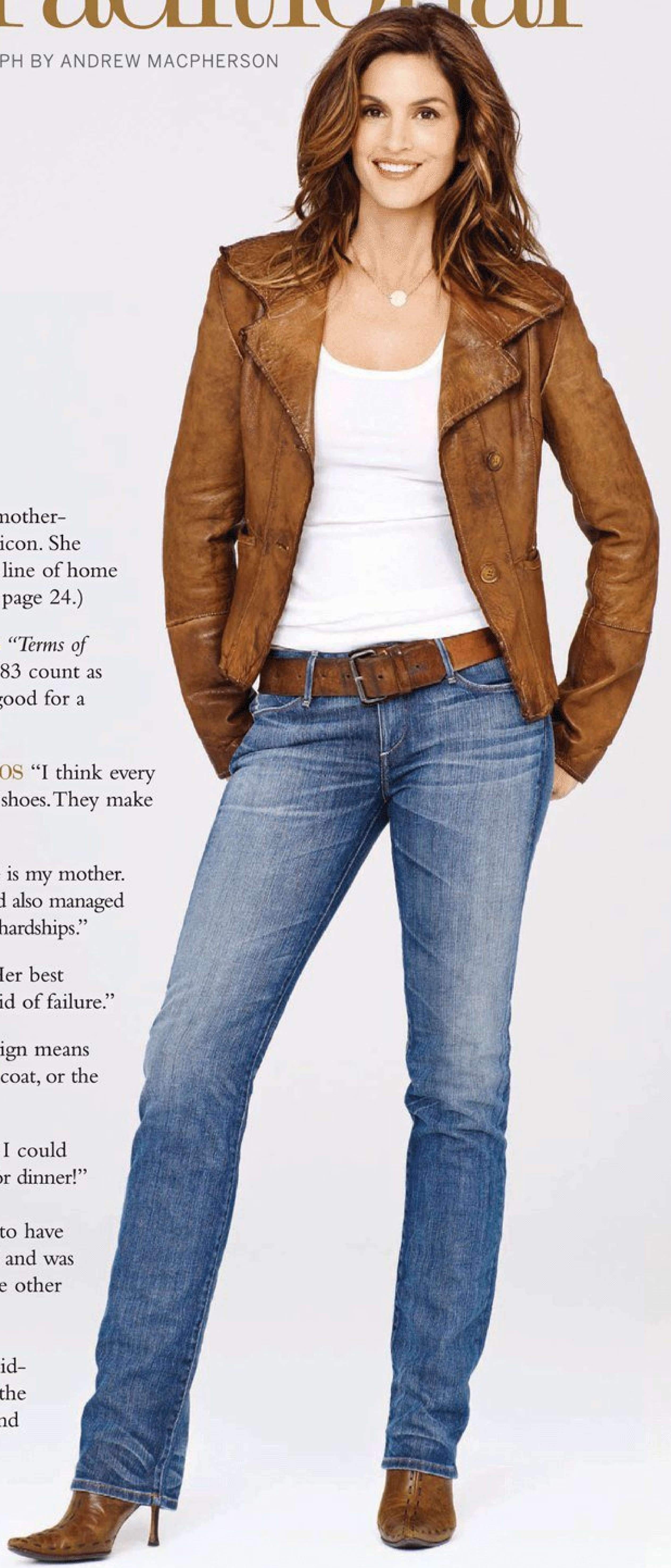
I am Traditional

PRODUCED BY JENNY BRADLEY   PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREW MACPHERSON



Name Cindy Crawford

Hometown DeKalb, Illinois

Occupation The ultimate hyphenate: wife-mother-supermodel-actress-author-entrepreneur-style icon. She recently introduced Cindy Crawford Style—a line of home furnishings and accessories for JCPenney. (See page 24.)

Shirley MacLaine moves her to tears *"Terms of Endearment* is my favorite old movie. (Does 1983 count as old?) It has great performances, and is always good for a cathartic cry."

Ladies, it's all about the Jimmy Choos "I think every woman should own at least one pair of designer shoes. They make you feel hot! The higher the heel, the better."

Her role model "The person I most admire is my mother. She has loved all her children unconditionally and also managed to have a positive outlook on life, even through hardships."

Her instincts have served her well Her best advice? "Trust your instincts, and don't be afraid of failure."

She loves the classics "To me, classic design means timelessness—like a black pump, a great trench coat, or the perfect white shirt."

There's one thing she hasn't done "If I could go anywhere, it would be to the White House for dinner!"

Her secret desire? "I would have loved to have been a hippie. I started working when I was 16 and was always so responsible. It might be fun to go the other way for a bit!"

I am traditional "I love bowling, have Mid-western values, and am happiest when I'm on the beach in Malibu with my husband and kids. And I love Christmas."

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